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NEWS:
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RENEWED!**

**PLUS! BEN
ESCAPES**

MARCH 7, 2016

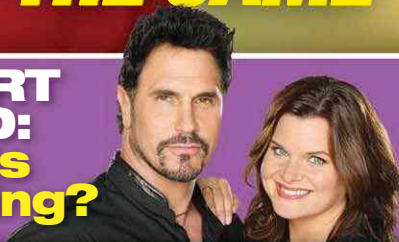
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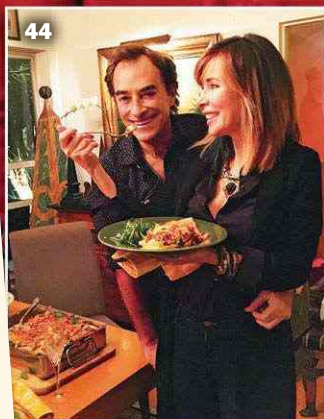
Contents

SOAP OPERA DIGEST



news

- 4 **Late-Breaking News**
- 14 **Comings And Goings**
- 16 **Hot Plots Preview**
- 18 **Extra! Extra!**
- 20 **Record This**
- 80 **Synopses**



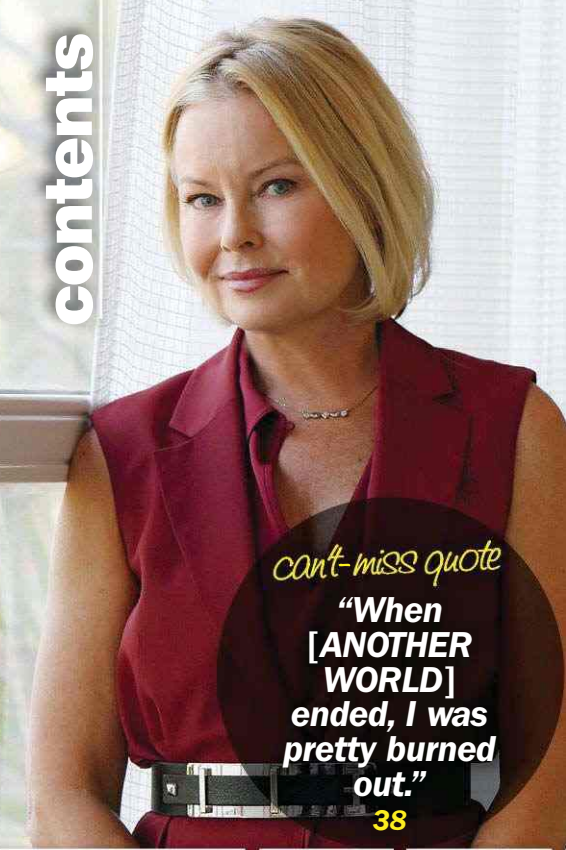
features

- 32 **Secrets Of The Set**
What do insiders *really* think about the current state of soaps?
- 44 **Supper Club**
Inside Thaaos Penghlis's star-studded DAYS dinner party.

- 54 **B&B Report Card**
A critical look at life in Los Angeles.
- 59 **Personal Bests**
Digest staffers pick their top soap storylines.
- 70 **Picture This**
The life of GH's Anna in photos.

- 74 **Best Of The Best**
The hottest red carpet looks of Y&R's Eileen Davidson (Ashley).

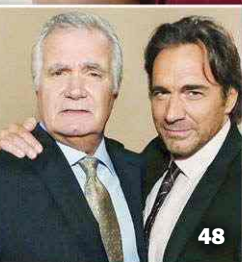
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can't-miss quote

**"When
[ANOTHER
WORLD]
ended, I was
pretty burned
out."**

38



48



52



96

COVER CREDITS: Stephen Nichols, Mary Beth Evans and James Lastovic (Steve, Kayla and Joey, DAYS). Photos: Howard Wise/JPI. Tamara Braun (Ava, DAYS). Photo: Mitchell Haaseth/NBC. Don Diamont and Heather Tom (Bill and Katie, B&B). Photo: John Paschal/JPI. Chandler Massey (ex-Will, DAYS). Photo: Michael Bezjian/Getty Images.

reader favorites

24 **Star Style**

30 **Thumbs/Second Opinion**

42 **Classic Lines**

48 **Roundup**

Over the years, who were you thrilled to hear was joining your show and why?

52 **Scene & Heard**

interviews

38 **Y&R's Elise**

Soap vet Jensen Buchanan is thrilled to be holding court in Genoa city.

columns

22 **Editor's Note**

28 **Editors' Choice**

36 **So Tweet**

50 **Crossword Puzzle**

51 **Sudoku**

58 **You Heard It Here**

78 **Calendar**

79 **Scorecard**

88 **Ask Us**

92 **Sound Off**

96 **Take Five**

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late-breaking news

hot off
the press

6 DAYS: Joey Kills Ava

9 B&B: Wyatt Proposes To Steffy

12 The Story Behind DAYS's Shocking Rape Tale

14 Chandler Massey Returning To DAYS?



16 DAYS: Ben Escapes!

DAYS: ROBERT SCOTT WILSON RETURNS

The news of Ben's escape from the psychiatric hospital marks portrayal Robert Scott Wilson's *DAYS* comeback. "[Co-Executive Producer] Albert Alarr told me toward the end of my first arc on *DAYS* that I would be coming back," says the actor. "So I knew that there would be more story for Ben."

The actor was busy during his time away from Salem. "I jumped into a couple of films [*Father* and *I Know Where Lizzie Is*] and I have good things on the burner," he shares. "I've also been auditioning. It's pilot season, so it's a great time to be available and open to opportunities. I'm also in a new acting class. I have an amazing coach and work with awesome actors, so even though I'm not getting paid for it, it's still like work."

As for what's ahead for his alter ego, Wilson teases, "Ben comes back because he wants to know what's going on. Granted, Ben hasn't forgotten what happened, but he wants to be back in the realm of a place



he considered home. Ben may also be able to bypass thoughts of the terrible things he has done." Wilson views his current stint as a new chapter. "For me, by the end of my first run, I feel that Ben had completed an arc," he notes. "So this is now a fresh new arc for myself and what I make for Ben. I am excited that he's coming back."

Wilson reports that everything felt very familiar on his first day back at the set. "Other than a few new faces, it was like I never left. *DAYS* was my home base for two years prior, so I feel at home there. I've got love for those people, so it's all good." And he kept in touch with *DAYS* pals Billy Flynn (Chad) and Kate Mansi (Abigail) while he was gone. "Kate and I touch base and bounce projects off each other if we see something. Kate was also telling me about a proj-

CHRIS HASTON/ABC

DAYS RENEWED!

■ After months of protracted negotiations, NBC's 50-year-old soap has been renewed for another year until September 2017, with an option for an additional year that would take the sudser into 2018.

In a statement, Jennifer Salke, president, Entertainment, noted, "NBC is incredibly proud of the legacy of DAYS OF OUR LIVES and we couldn't be more excited to bring its fans new stories.... In a business where having a show remain on the air for two seasons is considered a success, what DAYS has achieved is extraordinary."

The cast was understandably thrilled by the news. With DAYS's taping schedule, the show is five months ahead, and would have had to close its doors for good in March had the pickup not occurred. Insiders whisper that one of the sticking points was NBC's concern about the soap taping so far ahead. To that end, the show will reportedly shut down for five weeks to make up some production time.

The cast received word of the renewal on set. Thaa Penghlis (Andre) tweeted, "It was announced quietly on stage 2. The faces of the crew said it all. The magic that is DAYS continues." Galen Gering (Rafe), a Salem resident since 2008, tweeted, "So excited for the @nbcdays family and for all our incredible fans. Many great stories will continue to be told. Congratulations #days."

ect that she was doing," he offers. "It's always good to hear that people are staying on the top of their game. I'm doing an event with Billy this July in Toronto."

Regarding his omission from the Daytime Emmy prenomination list, which had fans crying foul on social media, he says, "I feel bad

"This is now a fresh new arc for myself and what I make for Ben. I am excited."

for the fans that they didn't get what they expected, not just for myself, but for



HOWARD WISE/UP

Fifty Plus: There's more to celebrate now that DAYS has been picked up until 2017. Pictured (l.-r.): Galen Gering (Rafe), Mary Beth Evans (Kayla), Stephen Nichols (Steve), Lauren Koslow (Kate) and Arianne Zucker (Nicole).

Martha Madison (Belle), who returned to the show in November, tells *Digest*, "I'm just so grateful to the viewers who have supported the show for so many generations. Without them, we wouldn't get to continue doing what we love so much! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" Christopher Sean (Paul) shares, "I'm over the moon with DAYS's renewal. DAYS has always been a major supporter of all walks of life and I'm so lucky to continue this journey with my DAYS family!" Mary Beth Evans (Kayla) says, "We have all been waiting and waiting and waiting to hear about the pick-up and couldn't be more excited that it's finally happened! We are so excited for future fabulous stories like we have had this past year. The writing and producing teams are so amazing and I know we are in good hands! Cheers to DAYS's 51st year!"

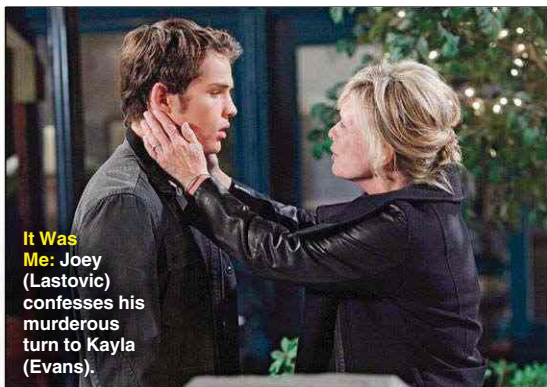
a number of other people on the show, as well," he opines. "My mom was disappointed, which made me disappointed. But ultimately, I'm good with it. I'm glad for everybody who received a [prenomination]. I hope that DAYS takes them all and I wish the best for my colleagues."

DAYS: JOEY MURDERS AVA!

■ Overwhelmed by the turmoil that Ava is putting his parents through, Joey heads for the hospital and slips into Ava's room. There, he takes a pillow and smothers her. "Joey is driven by a combination of emotion and alcohol," previews James Lastovic (Joey). "He's completely irrational and in a pretty unconscious state of mind. Joey's frustration has been building up for the past couple of months. Everything he wants is being pulled away from him. His parents' relationship is in trouble because of Ava, who Joey fell in love with. He's a ticking time bomb and he finally explodes."

Steve enters the room and catches his son in the act. "Steve's reaction is all-encompassing, a feeling of horror," states Stephen Nichols (Steve). He quickly tears Joey away from Ava. "When his dad comes in and makes contact with Joey, it sort of wakes him up from the nightmare that he's been in," describes Lastovic.

Steve checks Ava's pulse and realizes that



It Was Me: Joey (Lastovic) confesses his murderous turn to Kayla (Evans).



Off The Cuff: Steve (Nichols, r.), meanwhile, claims to Roman (Josh Taylor) that he did the crime and is arrested.

she is dead. "Steve's primary concern is protecting Joe," asserts Nichols. "He needs to talk him down so he can get him out of there [and] away from the scene of the crime — safely." Lastovic adds, "Joey is

dumbfounded by what just happened. When his dad tells him to go home, he just does it. He leaves in shock."

Joey arrives home and Kayla can sense something is wrong. As she questions Joey, the phone

rings with word of the crisis at the hospital. Kayla rushes out of the house, with her son by her side. At the hospital, Steve — who has taken responsibility for the crime — is being questioned by the police. “Kayla is shocked by what has happened,” shares portrayer Mary Beth Evans. “As a doctor, Kayla would never wish death upon anyone. But she doesn’t have time to think about it because she is concerned about Steve.”

Joey’s demeanor suddenly changes when he figures out what’s going on. “I don’t think Joey realizes until he gets back to the hospital that his dad is trying to take the blame for him,” says Lastovic. “By that point, Joey’s focus switches. The only thing he’s worried about is his dad. Joey’s immediate instinct is to confess. He can’t stand the thought of his dad taking the blame for what he did.”

Steve manages to have a private moment with Joey and urges him to keep mum. “If it were up to Joey, he would confess, but Steve is pretty adamant about Joey keeping quiet, so he listens to his dad,” explains Lastovic.

After Steve is taken to the police station, the sit-

uation weighs heavily on his son. “He tries to hide what really happened from his mom, but the pressure from the guilt that Joey’s feeling builds up,” Lastovic details. Finally, Joey tells Kayla the truth. “Kayla is horrified for her son,” Evans says. “He’s traumatized and she desperately wants to protect him.”

Later, Kayla and Steve have a chance to talk. “Kayla lets Steve know that Joey has told her the truth,” notes the actress.

*“Joey’s
immediate
instinct is to
confess. He can’t
stand the thought
of his dad taking
the blame for
what he did.”*

“She’s thankful that Steve is willing to protect the family by taking the fall for their boy. She works with Steve to make sure people do not find out the truth, but she also tries to prove that Steve was in the right to do it because he was acting in self-defense.”

Like Steve, Kayla’s utmost concern is Joey. “She wants to protect him at all costs,” stresses Evans, “which means

she will lie to her brother Roman and let Steve take the blame. Her head is spinning with the ramifications of all this. She doesn’t know how Joey will live with the guilt and the pending loss of Steve, if he is convicted and locked away.”

Roman questions Steve further about Ava’s murder, pressing him for more details because there are pieces that don’t add up. Specifically, why was Joey’s blood found on the pillow used to kill Ava? “When Roman questions Steve about the blood that was found, Steve tells Roman that Joe came in after Steve had smothered Ava and that he remembered Joe had a cut on his hand,” offers Nichols.

Alone in his cell, Steve weighs the various angles, wondering if there is a way to get himself out of the mess that he’s in. “Steve has fought so hard to get back with his family, he will do anything to stay in their good graces, but his first priority is protecting Joe,” reminds Nichols.

When things seem at their worst for Steve, an interesting twist develops. Nichols teases, “Unbeknownst to Steve, someone is working behind the scenes to get him off.”

GH: LIZ, JASON AND SAM CONVERGE IN PHILADELPHIA

■ In Philadelphia at Shriners Hospitals for Children, Jason and Elizabeth are relieved to get word that Jake's surgery went well. Her spirits are further lifted when Nikolas brings Aiden and Cameron for a visit, though Liz is less than thrilled when Sam makes an appearance with Danny in tow.

According to Co-Head Writer Shelly Altman, Elizabeth is doing her level best to accept Sam's renewed significance in Jason's life. "While Liz has been forced to accept the change in their relationship, the fact that Jason is moving in a new direction, she's not just fine; I don't want to suggest it's, 'Okay, we'll all be friends.' There's always going to be some tension." And Jake's issues will keep the characters in close proximity. "They are co-parents of a child who right now has physical issues and possibly some other issues, given his strange upbringing for half his life. They have a job to share for their son."

Sam and Jason's Philadelphia reunion marks their first encounter since sharing that heated good-bye kiss back in Port Charles, and their



TODD WAWRYCHUK/ABC

reconnection proceeds apace. "In a way, they're circling around each other a little bit," muses Co-Head Writer Jean Passanante. "He's falling in love with her anew, really, and she really likes him, but they're in different places now, so it's like a new rela-

"He's falling in love with her anew."

ationship, but with all these underpinnings of love." Adds Altman, "It's like you reconnect with the guy you loved in college and haven't seen for a number of years. A lot has happened in between, but what was there is still there."

Liz's deepening friendship with Franco also takes a step forward when he impulsively jets to Philly, and both

writers say that they enjoy exploring their unlikely connection. "It just kind of happened naturally," Altman offers. "They were both in this hospital setting and it made sense that Franco, in his capacity as art therapist, would interact with her child, and when we saw them together, we thought, 'This is just really interesting.' She certainly has reasons to not want to be a friend to Franco, and Franco is trying to change his life. We just found that a very interesting and unusual relationship, not relationship with a capital R." And in this instance, Franco's track record may uniquely qualify him to be a pal to the disgraced Ms. Webber. Chuckles Passanante, "The only person not in a position to judge Elizabeth is Franco!"

B&B: WYATT PROPOSES TO STEFFY!

■ Wyatt makes it official this week when he asks Steffy to marry him. “Wyatt is a guy who lives in the moment,” points out his portrayer, Darin Brooks. “He’s a take-charge kind of guy. They’re spending all this time together, creating this relationship, and they’re finally letting themselves happen, so he goes for it.”

Despite the fact that Wyatt just proposed to ex-girlfriend Ivy over the holidays, Brooks insists that his character doesn’t take this proposal to Steffy lightly. “Wyatt has always had feelings for Steffy and he got in touch with them,” the actor explains. “There was a flirtation between them before Ivy, and those feelings came up easily. After getting his heart broken by Ivy, he realized that he was doing something wrong. He thought that these ‘good’ girls, like Hope and Ivy, were the ones he was supposed to be with. That’s not to say that Steffy’s not a good girl, but it dawned on Wyatt that he has been trying to be something he’s not. Wyatt and Steffy get each other. They both go after what they want wholeheartedly and passionately, and he realizes Steffy’s the



With This Ring: Wyatt (Brooks) makes it official when he presents Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood) with an engagement ring.

SEAN SMITH/JPI

yin to his yang.”

As Steffy mulls her decision, Wyatt realizes that he’s facing opposition to their union from both families. “There’s always going to be some hesitation from Ridge and Thomas and everybody who is close to Steffy,” Brooks notes.

“Liam’s gone and Wyatt’s willing to let the chips fall where they may.”

“Obviously, everybody knows the history of Steffy and Liam — and Wyatt and Ivy — so there is a little apprehension for everybody to accept these two right away. That goes for Bill, as well. He always wanted Steffy and Liam to be

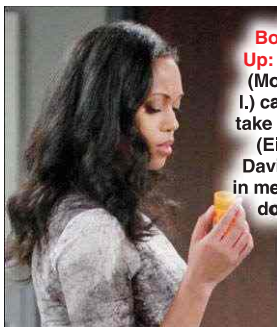
together. Not to mention, no one knows where Liam is or what’s going on with him but obviously, he doesn’t want to be here.”

Speaking of Liam, “Quinn does plant the seed in Wyatt’s ear that time is of the essence, and Wyatt jumps on that,” Brooks teases, unaware of his brother’s captive plight. “He is very much thinking, ‘Let’s strike while the iron is hot.’ Liam’s gone and Wyatt’s willing to let the chips fall where they may, and when Liam comes back, they’ll deal with him then. Why should they put lives on hold for him? They love each other. They’ve fallen for each other. Let’s see where it goes. If something happens later, it happens but right now, full steam ahead.”

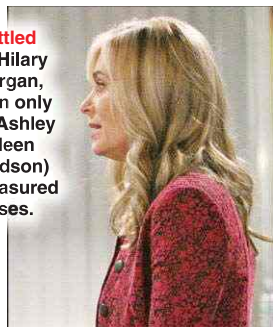
Y&R'S HILARY AND ASHLEY CLASH

■ Hilary decides she wants to take a more active role in Simon's research project. "This research means a lot to Hilary and she wants to make sure that it gets the positive attention that it deserves," explains Mishael Morgan (Hilary). "She wants to handle the PR and marketing for the project. Saving Neil's press conference from bombing helped her realize how important she can be to the research. She has what it takes to help this project, so why shouldn't she have more responsibility? She can bring a lot more to the table than she does right now."

That starts with Hilary's determination to improve Simon's outward appearance for an unexpected photo



Bottled Up: Hilary (Morgan, l.) can only take Ashley (Eileen Davidson) in measured doses.



HOWARD WISE/JPI, SEAN SMITH/JPI

shoot. She brings wardrobe items into the lab for the doc to try on. "He doesn't react very well to it at all," sighs Morgan. "He's very comedic, in his own way, and then Ashley comes in and shoots down the whole thing. She thinks Hilary's idea is a waste of time."

"[Ashley] thinks Hilary's idea is a waste of time."

After pointing out that Simon is a very busy man, Ashley orders Hilary to leave the lab. "At first, Hilary is feeling a little insecure about how Simon and Hilary are putting down her suggestions, but Hilary thinks it's very important for the success of the project," says Morgan. "So that just pushes her to fight for her position."

Devon shows up just as the ladies are arguing and Simon

is trying to referee. After hearing the cause of the skirmish, Devon surprises his wife by questioning the need for a photo shoot. Before Hilary can respond, Ashley feels faint, necessitating Simon to quickly escort her into the office. Hilary then vents to her husband for not supporting her but they're interrupted when Neville emerges from the office and leaves. "Devon tells Hilary that she can get what she wants, she just needs to finesse it and use a softer approach," Morgan shares. "She takes that advice to heart and decides to talk it out with Ashley so they can define boundaries and not step on each other's toes."

Hilary enters Ashley's office unannounced and is stunned by what she sees. Teases Morgan, "Hilary knows that she now has Ashley right in the palm of her hand."

RATINGS RACE: WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1

The numbers listed after each show are ratings points. Each ratings point represents 1,164,000 homes. These numbers now reflect DVR playback within the same day.

- YOUNG AND RESTLESS **3.4**
- BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL **2.6**
- GENERAL HOSPITAL **2.2**
- DAYS OF OUR LIVES **1.9**

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THE STORY BEHIND CIARA'S SHOCKING RAPE ON DAYS

■ Daytime newcomer Vivian Jovanni (Ciara) was given some intensely emotional material in the wake of Chase's assault on Ciara. The actress says she was first clued in to the story well in advance of getting the scripts. "My acting coach told me that it might be a possibility that Ciara gets raped, so I had an idea already of where they were going to go with the storyline," begins Jovanni. "When Albert [Alarr, co-executive producer] and Josh [Griffith, co-head writer] told me that Ciara was, indeed, going to be raped, I was nervous at first, but also very grateful to be getting the opportunity to explore this complex and layered storyline."

Because of DAYS's accelerated tape schedule, the actress kept the twist to herself. "I didn't talk to anyone about it," she recalls. "I didn't even tell my parents



"Ciara is broken. She feels guilty and ashamed that this happened."

because they are fans of the show. I don't share storyline with them."

Jovanni went back in the soap's history to figure out her approach to the material. "I actually started by watching Sami's rape scene [from 1994] on YouTube to see how far the show usually takes scenes like this. That actually helped me the most. I also read up on other women's stories to learn how things like this can happen and to learn how events like this affect people during

and after."

She didn't do a lot of prep work with co-star Jonathon McClendon (Chase), however. "We wanted the scene to be as realistic and spontaneous as possible," she explains. "After they told us, we definitely got a lot closer. There wasn't much dialogue to go over, so we didn't really go over the script that much; we just talked about the emotional tone of the scene a lot more than anything."

When it came time to film the episode, Jovanni says she was initially calm. "I felt good that morning; it just felt like another day at work," she notes. "When we actually started shooting the scenes, things changed and I started getting nervous. [Director] Noel Maxam came out of the booth and that's when it got real. I can't really remember specifically what he told me, but I could see in his eyes that, okay, this is when I needed to get serious and that's when it went dark. It was a very intense scene and I knew that if I wanted it to be real, I needed to be completely committed to everything she was feeling in those moments. All I can remember from that point on was Ciara's fear and terror of being violated by someone she trusted and cared for."

After the filming was done, Jovanni had to take

a moment for herself. “I remember walking to the back of the set, being overwhelmed by emotion, and I just started crying. [Producer] Janet Spellman-Drucker came up to me and I cried on her shoulder; it was very comforting to have her there. I then went outside to get some air and decompress a bit. When I went back to the set, it kind of seemed like everyone in that room was crying, as well. That’s when I realized that this is a safe zone; everyone was concerned and supporting me and that really allowed me to perform these scenes as honestly as I could. It was nice to have such a great group of people around me.”

At the end of the day, she reports, “I felt so tired and emotionally drained, and I definitely did not feel like myself. It took a while to shake off, but I did feel confident in my work and I left feeling like I did the best I could do. No regrets. I went home and took a bubble bath and watched FAMILY GUY so I could laugh a little bit before learning my scenes for the next day.”

As for where this trauma leaves her alter ego, Giovanni notes, “Ciara is broken. She feels guilty and ashamed that this happened. She thinks that this was her fault and she doesn’t want to talk about it with anyone. She runs away from people that comfort her, like Claire and Hope. She starts acting out



Chase Your Blues Away: Though Ciara is understandably wary of Chase, Giovanni says, “Jonathon [McClendon] and I are good friends; he’s always the funny guy on set. It’s nice to have him around when we have to be so serious and dramatic all the time.”

and wanting to drink, thinking that will take care of her emotional pain.”

Giovanni feels the powerful tale has helped her develop as a performer. “Playing emotional material like this has opened my eyes as an actor, because I never expected that scene to get as real as it did for me. Material like this is what helps you grow as an actor and I’m grateful for the opportunity.”

Ultimately, she hopes that Ciara’s journey strikes a chord with viewers. “The message I want to get across is that this can happen to anyone and that it’s okay to speak up because you’re not alone; you’ll see that Ciara finally does,” she says. “There are organizations out there to help, like RAINN

and NSVRC. They have trained staff members who will listen and help you start healing from the emotional and physical trauma. I see this storyline as an opportunity to start the conversation about this topic because it is an important issue that needs to be talked about. Every two minutes, another sexual assault occurs in the U.S., and I’d like to give my voice to those that aren’t being heard or to those who are too afraid to step forward. If this can happen to Ciara, it can happen to your daughter/niece/friend/granddaughter, too. It’s important to be aware of the signs.”

For more information on rape and sexual assault, viewers can visit www.rainn.org.



Chaz gets
BOLD.

who's coming

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Chaz Bono (Minister):

The famous offspring of **Cher** and the late **Sonny Bono** appears on March 31 and April 1. "On my way to work for an actual paying acting job. Very exciting," he tweeted the day the news broke. Of course, Bono is no newcomer to CBS Television City, where B&B tapes, since it's also where the actor made his TV debut on his parents' variety series, **THE SONNY AND CHER COMEDY HOUR**, back in 1972.

Chris McKenna (Dr. Hayden): The soap vet,

Comings *and* Goings

the
latest cast
changes

who played cop-turned-killer Detective Mark Harding on **Y&R** from 2014-15 and was one of **ONE LIFE TO LIVE**'s many Joeys from 1990-93, makes the leap to **B&B** beginning on March 3 as a doc who consults with a troubled Katie (**Heather Tom**).

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Kristina Wagner (Felicia Scorpio): Maxie (**Kirsten Storms**) confides in her mom this week. See page 16 for more.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Devon Martinez (Shawn Taylor): The actress, daughter of **A Martinez**

(**Eduardo, DAYS**), debuts as a new character on March 1.

Gwendolyn Osborne (Evelyn): **THE PRICE IS RIGHT** model appears as a wedding planner on February 29 in preparation for Billy (**Jason Thompson**) and Victoria's (**Amelia Heinle**) nups.

who's going

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Tamara Braun (Ava Vitali): Joey (**James Lastovic**) killed Ava, marking the end of Braun's third stint in Salem. See page 6 for more. "It was so great," enthuses Braun of her latest run. "I love working with **Stephen [Nichols, Steve]** and **Mary Beth [Evans, Kayla]**. I didn't get to work with **Kristian**

CASTING ABOUT

■ **Y&R** is seeking an African-American actor between the ages of 40 and 50 to play an "intelligent, no-nonsense judge" for at least five episodes.... **Riley Bodenstab** (ex-Cole, **DAYS**) just taped an episode of **MODERN FAMILY** set to air in April or May.... **REVENGE** alum **Gabriel Mann** (ex-Nolan) has joined the cast of Showtime's **RAY DONOVAN** for at least three episodes in its upcoming fourth season playing an aggressive attorney who reps high-profile clients.

[Alfonso, Hope] this time but we had such a good time last time, so it was good to see her. There's so many great people over there and I got to see a lot of people so that was wonderful, and to be welcomed back by them was, too."

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Stacy Haiduk (Patty Williams): Paul's (Doug Davidson) nutso sister is gone for now — but a backstage source assures that the character will turn up again.

REAL-LIFE STATUS

■ **Baby On Board:** Congratulations to DAYS's **Jordi Vilasuso** (Dario) and his wife, **Kaitlin**, who are expecting their second child. "We are so so overjoyed to share that our little family will be growing in July," she posted online. "We cannot wait to see our little **Riley**'s heart grow as she becomes a big sister. This little ladybug has so much love to give."

CHANDLER MASSEY BACK TO DAYS?

■ After months of backstage buzz that DAYS was in discussions with fan fave **Chandler Massey** (ex-Will), his former rep, **Jeffrey Ballard**, took to social media to make a statement (which has since been deleted). "I've been getting quite a few calls about this — so for the record — I can neither confirm nor deny that my former client and good friend, three-time Daytime Emmy winning actor **Chandler Massey** will be returning to his role of **Will Horton** on Days of our Lives later this year," he posted. "I guess you will all have to keep watching!!" Massey played the role of Sami and Lucas's son from 2010-14, after which he was replaced by **Guy Wilson**. Will was killed off last October by Necktie Killer Ben. A recent photo posted on social media indicated that **Freddie Smith** is back filming as Will's widower, Sonny.



VIVIAN KILLALEA/GETTY IMAGES

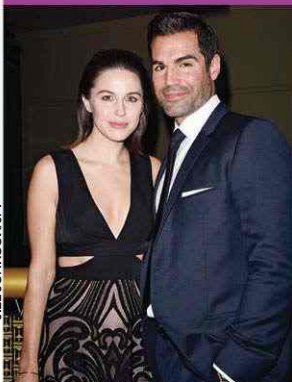
GH WIN AT WRITERS GUILD AWARDS

■ Former GH Head Writer **Ron Carlivati** and Co. snagged the top prize for Daytime Drama at the 68th Annual Writers Guild Awards on February 13 in Los Angeles. "Congratulations to our amazing @General Hospital writing team on their #WGAAwards win! So proud! #ghwildwinter #GH," tweeted Execu-



tive Producer **Frank Valentini**. "Congrats Ron and the team. That's gotta feel nice," posted **Jason Thompson** (Billy, Y&R; ex-Patrick, GH). Enthused **Michelle Stafford** (Nina), "Congratulations to THE

AMAZING writing team of #GH for just winning the @wga award 4 the second year in a row!! Well deserved u crazy kids!!"



JILL JOHNSON/JP

THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES

Hot Plots Pr

YOUNG AND RESTLESS Victor Busts Natalie

Natalie and Luca watch the feed from Victor's office through the surveillance camera she planted. They witness Victor talking on the phone with Luca's dad, informing the elder Santori that Luca has been fired from Newman. Even by the one-sided conversation, Nat and Luca can tell that his papa is not happy. "Natalie is more freaked out," says Mara McCaffray (Natalie). "She's already jumpy when it comes down to Victor, and this whole Luca situation is making the whole situation weaker."

Suddenly, Victor arrives at Natalie's place and orders Natalie to let him in. Luca ducks into the bathroom and Nat opens the door to Newman, who announces that he knows about the camera she secretly installed in his office. "I think that's a shaking-in-your-boots moment right there," chuckles McCaffray. "She might see some of the worst possible outcomes flash before her eyes. She could be in for some really bad and dark stuff."



Gotcha! Victor (Eric Braeden) becomes wise to Natalie's (McCaffray) plot.

JILL JOHNSON/SEAN SMITH/JPI



The Name Game: Maxie (Storms) is tweaked by Nathan's (Ryan Paevy) misdirected declaration of love.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

GENERAL HOSPITAL Who Is Claudette?

Maxie has cause to suspect that her relationship with Nathan isn't as rock-solid as she thought when he makes a drug-induced slip of the tongue.

"He has just been shot," sets up Kirsten Storms (Maxie). "They're at the hospital and he's on pain medication and Maxie says she loves him and he responds, 'I love you, too, Claudette.'" Maxie's reaction? "'Who the F is Claudette?'" Storms chuckles.

Nathan has an explanation at the ready, but Maxie isn't buying it — seemingly with good reason. "I think because Nathan has never lied to Maxie before, she *knows* he's lying; it's easy for her to tell that he's not telling the truth," the actress muses. "Instead of having her usual reaction of freaking out, I think it affects her on a deeper level."

Felicia advises her daughter to trust her beau, but Maxie can't shake her doubt. "She is genuinely concerned that something is going on with her relationship," Storms explains. "And she wants to figure out what it is."

review!

What Will Happen

SOAP OPERA DIGEST

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Ben Escapes!

The week begins with Chad alone in the DiMera manse when Stefano suddenly appears to him. “Chad is coming to grips with the idea that Stefano is actually gone,” previews portrayal Billy Flynn.

During the encounter, Chad speaks honestly with his deceased dad about what has happened in the weeks since he died. “Chad says everything about what he’s feeling,” Flynn shares. “It’s the kind of talk every son wishes he could have with his father after he’s gone. It’s very honest.”

Chad is pulled out of the encounter when JJ arrives with urgent news. “Ben has escaped from the psychiatric hospital,” reveals Flynn. Chad and JJ discuss the ramifications of Ben being on the loose and come up with a plan. Instead of turning to the cops for help, Chad and JJ decide to work independently to hunt down Ben before he can reach Abigail.

“Chad doesn’t have any faith in the Salem PD,” asserts Flynn. “He thinks that he can handle it on his own.”



Secret Mission: Chad (Flynn) and JJ set out on their own to find Ben and protect Abigail (Kate Mansi).



Together Again: With Deacon (Kanan) and Quinn (Rena Sofer), the couple that splits together can still scheme together.

SEAN SMITH/UP!

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL Deacon Helps Quinn

Though he initially wanted nothing to do with Quinn and her latest crazy scheme — convincing an amnesiac Liam that he’s her husband “Adam” — something changes Deacon’s mind. “Quinn’s this guy’s meal ticket,” chuckles Sean Kanan (Deacon). “And, even though the two of them are splitting up, Deacon still does have genuine feelings of caring for Quinn and hates to see her give in to the lesser angels of her personality. She gets into these crazy, obsessive, bad scenarios that she creates, and this is certainly the worst that Deacon has observed.”

Though he agrees to aid Quinn in corroborating the past she created for Liam, he does feel a little bit guilty about his deception. “Deacon and Liam have never had an adversarial relationship,” Kanan points out. “His daughter, Hope, was in love with Liam — and that is certainly not lost on Deacon. The one thing he doesn’t want to do is go back to prison, so that will definitely be weighing on Deacon’s mind.”

HOWARD WISE/UP!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

snap POLL

Readers of
soapoperadigest.com
weigh in.

**What is your
opinion of
Jennifer's
pill-popping
story on
DAYS?**

28%

Undecided.
I'll withhold
judgment
until I see
where it
goes.

31%

Love it.
Something
meaty and
different
for Melissa
Reeves to
do!

41%

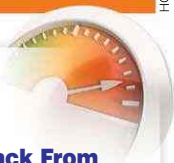
Hate it.
It's so
out of
character
for
Jennifer.

Med Alert:

Thus far,
DAYS fans
aren't
gaga over
Jennifer's
(Melissa
Reeves)
new
storyline.

HOWARD WISE/UP

trend temperature



**DAYS Death
Becomes Her**

**Up On The
Roof (GH)**

**Back From
B&B Vacay**

HOT

Ava

Morgan

Ashleigh Brewer (Ivy)

WARM

Paige

Franco

Thorsten Kaye (Ridge)

COLD

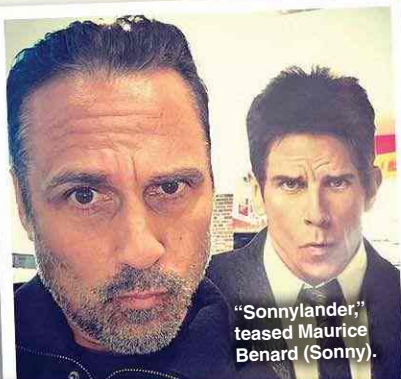
Serena

Heather

Sean Kanan (Deacon)

STAR SHOTS OF THE WEEK

INSTAGRAM/BENARD



"Sonnylander," teased Maurice Benard (Sonny).



Corinthos brothers Bryan Craig (Morgan, I.) and Chad Duell (Michael) enjoyed a sunny hike.

INSTAGRAM/DUELL

INSTAGRAM/MILLS



Animal lover Donna Mills (ex-Madeline) posed with a Muppet buddy.

Kirsten Storms (Maxie) cozied up to hubby Brandon Barash (ex-Johnny). "Baby in bed, check. Study script, check. Clean up 'pudding mistake', check. Now I make him watch Scandal with me while I gush over Olivia & Fitz. It's ok, I will give him gummy bears," she wrote.



INSTAGRAM/STORMS

INSTAGRAM/ZEMAN



"My dear #friends forever," beamed Jacklyn Zeman (Bobbie, far l.), who lunched with (from far l.) Stuart Damon (ex-Alan), Kin Shriner (Scott), Leslie Charleson (Monica) and former show publicist Scott Barton.

SNEAK PREVIEW!

Record This



Bold And Beautiful Leaps Of Faith

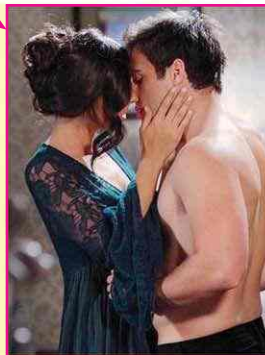
On **Monday, February 29**, a flirty Sasha offers to distract a preoccupied Zende (both I.).... Katie takes a proactive step in order to deal with her anger toward Brooke and her troubled marriage on **Thursday, March 3**.... On **Friday, March 4**, as Nicole nurses her regrets, Zende faces his greatest temptation yet.



SEAN SMITH/JPI

Days Of Our Lives Close Encounter

On **Monday, February 29**, Hope fears she may have killed Stefano for a crime he did not commit, and JJ and Gabi (both r.) take their relationship to the next level.... Eric is taken aback when he realizes that Jennifer doesn't remember their kiss, and Chad has a vision of Stefano on **Tuesday, March 1**.... On **Wednesday, March 2**, Caroline, Hope, Roman, Marlena, John, Victor and Kate gather at the pub to celebrate the death of Stefano DiMera.... On **Thursday, March 3**, Brady asks Fynn to check into Summer's DNA, and Summer has a run-in with Maggie.... On **Friday, March 4**, Ciara freaks when she hears that Claire has plans to meet up with Chase.



HOWARD WISE/JPI

General Hospital Staying Power

Elizabeth has second thoughts about her living arrangements on **Monday, February 29**, while Anna comes to a sad and unfortunate realization.... On **Tuesday, March 1**, Tracy takes a turn for the worse, and Ava breaks down in front of Paul (both I.).... Sonny and Ava have an uncharacteristically calm moment of understanding, and Tracy fears the worst on **Wednesday, March 2**.... On **Thursday, March 3**, tensions rise between Sonny and Carly; Maxie offers sage advice to Nina; and Diane details her plan to get Morgan out of trouble.



HOWARD WISE/JPI

Young And Restless Step It Up

On **Monday, February 29**, Phyllis asks Summer to keep a secret, while Chelsea worries about losing Adam (both r.).... Nikki makes a tough decision about her future on **Tuesday, March 1**.... On **Wednesday, March 2**, Victoria plays with fire.... Kevin faces off with Luca on **Thursday, March 3**.... On **Friday, March 4**, Phyllis recruits a new partner in her vendetta against Victor.

SEAN SMITH/JPI



PRIME
TIME

On **Monday, February 29**, on *THE FOSTERS*, Brandon's senior thesis is in jeopardy when a student raises concerns about the play glorifying suicide, leaving the school honor board to vote on whether or not his *Romeo and Juliet* musical can be performed at Anchor Beach.... On **Tuesday, March 1**, on *PRETTY LITTLE LIARS*, Caleb must deal with the collateral damage of taking the blame for the leak about Yvonne; Spencer tries to comfort him and get him to tell the truth; Emily goes on a mission to track down who came after her; Aria and Ezra move forward with the novel; and Hanna avoids dealing with her personal life.... On **Thursday, March 3**, on *GREY'S ANATOMY*, a patient from Meredith's very first surgery is readmitted to Grey Sloan Memorial with a new aneurysm, and Amelia takes her case; Maggie suspects that Richard knows about her relationship with Andrew; and Arizona debates dating again.... On **Friday, March 4**, on *THE VAMPIRE DIARIES*, while Stefan and Valerie search for a magical herb that can keep him hidden from Rayna, Damon comes up with his own plan to take her down for good.... Say good-bye to the Crawley family and Co. (below) on **Sunday, March 6**, when *DOWNTON ABBEY* wraps up its run after six seasons.



PBS

Please Note: These are the scheduled air dates, released to us by the networks and TV production companies at press time. Due to last-minute pre-emptions, actual air dates may vary.

editor's note

Dear Readers,

I think we all breathed a collective sigh of relief when DAYS received its official pickup from NBC. It didn't seem possible that the show — which has hit some nice ratings highs over the past few months and had an exciting 50th anniversary celebration not too long ago — would be canceled, but the protracted negotiations began to create a ripple effect of unease. So, a big congratulations to Ken Corday and Co. I am sure his late parents are smiling down on him at this happy news and I look forward to what's ahead in Salem as the show prepares to hit 51 in November.

In this issue, our editors pick their favorite storylines ever. GH's "Who Killed Diana Taylor?" mystery is definitely my No. 1, and it fell on Stella Bednarz's list. I can remember being glued to the edge of my bed (my TV was in my room at the time) as Heather donned her nurse's cap and slipped out of the mental hospital. Framing rival Anne by writing her name in blood just upped the drama to perfection. For the full picks from the staff, turn to page 59.

As an avid B&B viewer, I marvel at Executive Producer/Head Writer Brad Bell's ability to keep the story moving so flawlessly with a small cast and a limited time frame. On page 54, we take a critical look at how the 29-year old CBS soap is doing.

Stephanie Sloane

**Stephanie Sloane,
Editorial Director**



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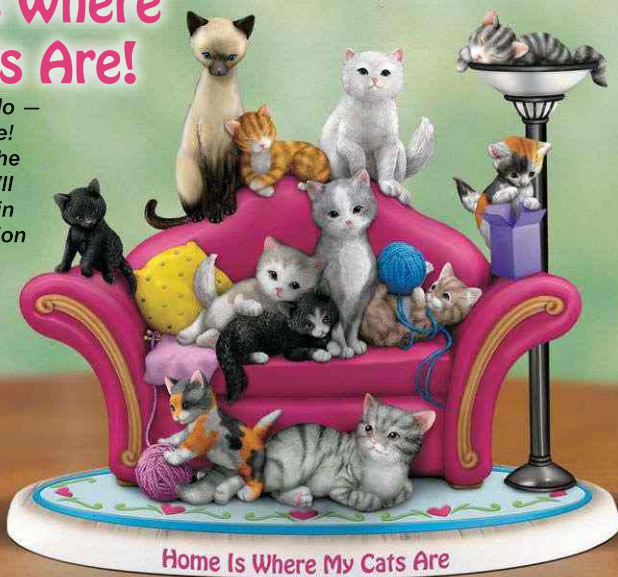


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figurine!

Blake Jensen

Shown smaller
than approximate
size of 6" high



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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

09-06074-001-E97801

star style

what they're wearing...wh information station

Q This question is about jewelry on DAYS. I would like to know the name of the necklace that Hope Brady (Kristian Alfonso) has been wearing. I saw it on the February 4 and 5 shows. Since Alfonso wears a lot of her own jewelry line, I wanted to know which necklace it was. It is long and it has great sparkle to it and it looks silver in color. I would like to know so that I can order it. Thanks so much.

Donna L., via email

A The necklace is, indeed, from Alfonso's Hope Faith Miracles line. It's the 30-inch Pyrite Sphere Necklace in Rhodium and retails for \$120. Go to hopefaithmiracles.com for more information.



HOWARD WISE/JPI

Length Wise: Hope's necklace in this DAYS scene is from Kristian Alfonso's Hope Faith Miracles line.



PHOTOS: JILL JOHNSON/JPI

Q I would like to see Nicole's hairstyle from DAYS on November 12, 2015 so I can show my hairstylist. Can you please show the hairstyle from the front, back and sides? Thank you!

Joan E.

A Here are the shots we have of Arianne Zucker's look as Nicole on that day. Good luck at the salon!

Send your style questions to Star Style, Soap Opera Digest, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004 or email them to SODstyle@soapoperadigest.com.

Due to the volume of mail received, we regret that we cannot answer your letters personally.

ere they're going...what they're doing

shady lady

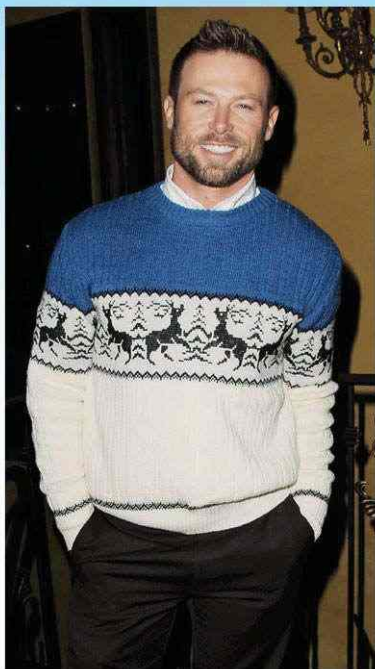
Gray matters to B&B's Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang).

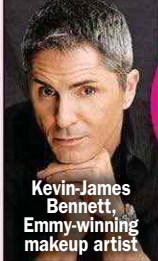


PHOTOS: SEAN SMITH/JPI

winter wonderland

■ With B&B's Jacob Young (Rick) living in Utah and commuting to L.A., his winter wardrobe essentials vary. "If I was in New York, it would be a completely different ensemble than Utah," he notes. "In Utah, winter is a character builder. It's awesome and it's challenging. I like my cool bibs and my stocking caps. There's no real style up there in terms of winter wardrobe. It's all about warmth and comfort. As far as L.A. goes for the winter, I like a nice, light vest. And luckily, my legs can still qualify for some skinny jeans once in a while. I can still squeeze into them. I'm trying, anyway. Pulling them on is the hard part [*laughs*]!"





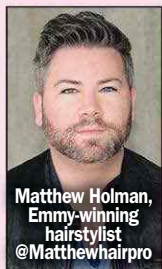
Kevin James Bennett,
Emmy-winning
makeup artist



Jim DeMarco,
Emmy-winning
makeup artist



Christina Flach,
Celebrity
Makeup Artist,
www.prettygirlmakeup.com



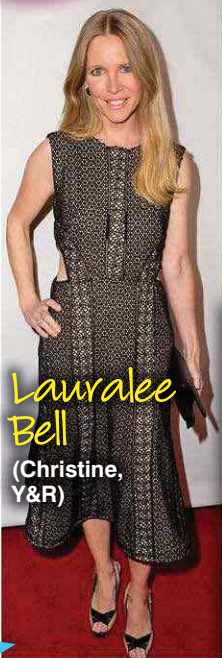
Matthew Holman,
Emmy-winning
hairstylist
@Matthewhairpro



Joshua McKinley,
PROJECT
RUNWAY All-Star
@jcmckinleynyc

style squad

We all have our good days and our bad days, fashion-wise. But not all of us have paparazzi to chronicle every misstep! A team of experts weighs in on the chic and the shouldn't have.



Lauralee Bell
(Christina,
Y&R)

ALISON DUCK/GETTY IMAGES

Flach: If you are going to have a cutout in your dress, it needs to make more of a bold statement or it looks like it's ripped.

Holman: The dark red purse and black heels seem a little out of place with this crazy-gorgeous gown.

McKinley: Join the marching band because this trumpet-style skirt is absolutely so flattering. Not to mention the black lace over nude and well-placed style lines. It's contemporary but fresh!

DeMarco: Electrifying shade and fit! I would have slicked your hair all back instead of halfsies.

Flach: The fit and color of this jumpsuit were made for Shelley!

Holman: Fresh and sexy look, but the hairstyle doesn't work with this.



Shelley Hennig
(ex-Stephanie,
DAYS)



Abigail Spencer
(ex-Becca,
AMC)

JILL JOHNSON/UPi

Bennett: Total Audrey Hepburn moment. Classic!

DeMarco: Love the top of this but not sure about the bottom. Your slender figure is lost in all of the unnecessary fabric.

McKinley: Radiant in red! She looks like the delicious cherry that tops a Manhattan!

JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

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HEART:

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Meet Your Lucky Charms!

ANCHOR: Safety and security, adorned with an **EMERALD**.

STAR: A Celestial Protector, twinkling with a **DIAMOND**.

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editors' choice

**Digest Salutes
The Best In
Soaps**

Intimacy Issues, GENERAL HOSPITAL

GH delivered a week rich with character- and relationship-enhancing moments when it delved into the makeup of three decidedly different duos.

For months, Kristina has been dodging questions about what was going on back at Wesleyan, where she'd gotten into trouble significant enough to get suspended (a fact she's managed to conceal from Sonny and Alexis — thus far). She confided in sister Sam that she'd propositioned a professor, Parker, in hopes of improving her grades — and GH served up a stellar twist when Prof. Forsyth showed up chez Davis in the form of soap vet Ashley Jones, turning our assumptions about Parker's gender, not to mention Krissy's sexual orientation, on their heads.

The cat-and-mouse game that ensued between the ladies was filled with tension, sexual and otherwise, introducing tantalizing ques-



Go Your Own Way: Dante and Lulu (Dominic Zamprogna and Emme Rylan) faced the end of their marriage.

tions galore. Did Parker invite Kristina's overtures, as Kristina suggested? Did Kristina plant negative reviews of the teacher online when she didn't get what she wanted, as Parker suggested? We suspect that neither woman is completely innocent of the charges against her, but what we know for sure is that Jones and Lexi Ainsworth (Kristina) were terrific together, commanded the screen with their intense and connected work, and that their dialogue was inspired. (A blithe Alexis to Kristina, who claimed that Parker was her academic adviser: "What's the focus of your project?" Parker, in response: "Sex and power.") The potential of this storyline — as coming-of-age yarn, as love story, as family tale — is off the charts.

Kristina's older brother, Dante, also received a surprise visitor to his home: His estranged wife, Lulu. In light of Lulu's overblown revenge scheme against Valerie, we feared this story had lost its beating heart, but Lulu's last-ditch effort to salvage her marriage proved us wrong. The Falconeris took a wistful walk down memory lane and nearly hit the sheets, the site of his sack sessions with Val — but Lulu pulled back. "It's not our bed anymore," she said sadly, more matter-of-fact than accusing, then assured Dante that she still loved him. "I love you, too," he replied. "But maybe it's not enough." In scenes that packed a huge emotional punch by virtue of their maturity, simplicity and earnestness, Lulu signed the divorce papers. "Be happy,"

she sniffled. "I can't bear to think of you any other way."

Last but not least was the show's handling of Franco and Nina, who under GH's new writing regime have become simultaneously more grounded and more interesting. Their compatibility as partners has hit a snag — she wants kids, he doesn't — that is true to life, albeit within unmistakably soapy parameters (she can't have a bio child because of the side effects of her 20-year coma; he's reluctant to pass down his serial killer genes; and given their psychological and legal histories, neither one is a viable candidate for adoption). In their frank discussion of the matter, beautifully played by Roger Howarth (Franco) and beautifully reacted to by Michelle Stafford (Nina), Franco characterized his DNA as a "ticking time bomb," explaining that the concept of seeing himself reflected in a child's eyes was more worrisome than winsome. His words hit Nina hard on two levels (her own dreams being dashed; her sadness for her beloved's tragic self-image), leaving them at an impasse that will surely continue to test, if not their love, their odds of survival.

These scenes lacked bells and whistles — no exploding houses, no cousins in burning cabins. What GH offered instead was naked, honest human interaction, which translated into stirring drama. ☐

performer of the week

Rena Sofer

(QUINN, B&B)

■ When Quinn took an ailing Liam to her remote cabin to keep him out of Steffy and Wyatt's way, portrayed Rena Sofer was given her most intimate material to date, and the actress expertly exposed intriguing new layers to her alter ego.



Seeing an amnesiac Liam so vulnerable affected Quinn, who responded in kind. She seemed not to know what to make of her heart's involuntary softening toward the man she previously delighted in torturing, and Sofer played every conflicting beat with subtle finesse. Her blue eyes clouded with shock and concern, and her body movements were fidgety, as if her new feelings were so uncomfortable, she hoped to be able to shake them off. But Liam's earnest pursuit of finding out his identity, and hers, pushed Quinn to become a new person, someone we hadn't seen before, even with Wyatt. She was motherly at first, clucking over him and feeding him soup, but as soon as she lied to Liam (or Adam, as she told him he was named) that they were wed, his horror at not remembering her — in a moment that Scott Clifton sold to perfection — made her suddenly realize why Steffy, Hope and Ivy all fell for his gentle soul.

Quinn had trouble looking Liam in the eye, unable to check herself and her new awakening with him, but as he expressed real concern for her, she lovingly touched his face, surprising herself. When "Adam" asked her to reveal something about herself, Sofer took Quinn to a new place, one where she was suddenly defenseless, as she explained how, as a little girl, her mother wanted nothing to do with her. "I was inconvenient," she explained sadly, her tone stark and childlike. It went a long way toward explaining why Quinn is the way she is, and Sofer wrung every emotional beat out of the reveal.

Sofer navigated what we thought would be a predictable Quinn trip to Crazy Town to a destination far more complex and compelling. Love or hate the story, it's tough to find fault with her rich and creative portrayal.

thumbs up! and down!

Best Of Show Or
Worse For Wear?
Digest Decides.

thumbs up! GENERAL HOSPITAL Girl Powered

Though we've expressed our quibbles with the way GH has handled the fallout from Lulu and Dante's breakup, one aspect we did enjoy was seeing how much Lulu was able to rely on her sometimes flighty bestie, Maxie. Though Maxie tends toward the self-involved, she's been a solid source of support for Lulu during her time of domestic tumult, providing a strong showcase for the genuine rapport between Emme Rylan (Lulu) and Kirsten Storms



GH's Maxie and Lulu
(Kirsten Storms, l. and
Emme Rylan)

HOWARD WISE/UP

(Maxie). Maxie's dedication to Lulu was never more evident than when Nathan and Maxie decided to move in together. Ms. Jones's thoughts immediately turned to how the change in circumstances would affect Lulu, who'd been bunking with

her since her split, and they decided to live as a trio for the time being. The arrangement didn't last terribly long, but it was fun while it did, as when all the roomies settled in to watch a rom-com and the close-knit gals immediately (and unwittingly) made

Applause, Applause

GH crafted a strong introduction for its new doc, *Griffin*, by not only connecting him to Lucas, but bonding him to Sonny on an emotional level that resonates with long-term fans who hold Sonny's relationship with Stone in high regard (both characters, we now know, have lost someone close to them from AIDS).... We chuckled at the symbolism of B&B's Quinn selecting "Eve" and "Adam" as faux names for herself and Liam.

Picky Picky

ing from apply to the significance of fire alarms? There was barely a pep in his step as he casually searched the Webber home for poor Sam, who was unconscious in the basement, inhaling toxic fumes. On that note, can we call a moratorium on house explosions? Three in two years seems quite enough.... With all the doom and gloom in Salem, it would have been nice if *DAYS* at least showed some sort of celebration over JJ graduating from the police academy. Also, why did Abigail and Theresa both jump to the conclusion that Jennifer was hopped up on pills when she was euphoric at the sight of Abby in her wedding dress? Most mothers would be giddy at such a sight without pharmaceutical help.

Does the amnesia
GH's Jason is suffer-

outnumbered Nathan feel like a third wheel.

thumbs down! BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL Outta Sight

We're thrilled to see B&B bad boy Deacon back in action, but we just don't understand why the show deprived viewers of the chance to witness what caused his marriage to Quinn to splinter. They were a likable duo with matching mischievous streaks and plenty of potential to stir things up, but alas, it was never realized: Shortly after they tied the knot, Quinn was sidelined and Deacon disappeared. Ten months later, we learned that the couple had separated off-screen. We suppose B&B felt that the breakup was necessary to make the Quinn/Liam storyline possible, but how much more riveting would the tale be if we were as much in the loop about Quinn's romantic life as we are Liam's? As it stands, we feel like we're missing a key chapter from an otherwise terrific book.

thumbs down! YOUNG AND RESTLESS Kill Switch

Although the death of Dr. Anderson has moved the Christian/Sully baby-switch saga in a compelling direction, we can't help but feel that the timing of her demise was off, as it robbed

the audience of the dramatic possibilities that would have come with the deceased discovering that the little boy she'd shuttled off to an unwitting Sharon and Dylan was actually the bio son of Sage and Adam, not Nick, the target of her twisted revenge. Y&R choosing not to play this arc — from the doc's horrified realization to, perhaps, sprouting a guilty conscience over doing the wrong people dirty and scrambling to undo her brazen hoax — is a bit of a head-scratcher; why skip beats so deliciously and inherently soapy? Not to mention that if at some point, the truth comes out and Sage gets her baby back/Sharon loses "Sully", neither woman will get an



Y&R's Dr. Anderson
(Elizabeth Bogush)

SEAN SMITH/JPI

epic confrontation with the devious doc who put them through such a miserable emotional ringer. In our view, Dr. Anderson's end was premature in more ways than one. □

Second Opinion

The biggest upset during the lackluster Super Bowl was that CBS aired a surprise promo announcing the cancellation of **THE GOOD WIFE**. "Here's one of our crown jewels," the promo implied, "but we're done with it." After slotting this superior drama after Sunday football games for years, seemingly expecting to bury it because nobody knew when it would come on, the show's fate is now sealed. Granted, the producers had announced their departure at season's end, but still, nearly 9 million weekly viewers held out hope for a continuance. **WIFE** was written off because its 18-49 demographic number was too low, and if you're over 49, you have one foot in the grave in TV Land. You don't buy advertisers' cars, you shun makeup and perfume, you don't eat out and you still have dial-up. This series was the story of a woman grappling with adultery, career setbacks, a tragic love affair and starting over. Too bad its viewers were too "old" to keep it going. — Amy E. Gross



SECRETS OF THE SET

**INSIDE
REPORT!**

In this behind the scenes exposé, actors and setsiders reveal how they really feel about the state of daytime.



Money Matters

■ Paycuts, contract changes and tactical renegotiations are the name of the game in today's soap environment, report our insiders. "Today it's all about budget," begins a seasoned vet. "It's not just the actors who have seniority being asked to take a 50 percent pay cut. The number of people working on the crew has been cut. Compared to any talk show on the air today, soaps cost a fortune to produce."

One star says that as a result of the expense, actors are left with little bargaining power when it comes to contract negotiations. "It's a take-it-or-leave-it situation now, because there are so many younger actors today who will work for anything," he explains. "The pay scale has dramatically changed. You now have people who will work for an episode at a rate that was unheard of not that long ago. There's always been a stigma about daytime actors and I feel that stigma is magnified by how much they get paid now."

As a result, contract renewals don't go as smoothly as they used to. "A lot of veterans are off contract, and it's just killing them," reveals a source. "They're made to feel as though they're lucky to be here: 'Don't ask for any money, we are doing you a favor, don't complain.' The veterans that do come up for renegotiation, psychologically, what the shows will do is stop writing them 10 weeks beforehand. So what happens is the veteran starts going, 'Wait a

second, I thought I was important here and I'm being written off,' so it completely throws off their equilibrium. So, when they finally come at the last minute with a lowball offer, the actor will say, 'I'll take it!' That's really the mentality."

And then there are stars who are quietly transitioned to a new status. The insider continues, "I know that shows will go to actors and say, 'Listen, we're going to put you on recurring, but no one needs to know about this. We're going to keep you in the opening credits' — because that's a dead giveaway to the audience and to the press, when someone's out of the credits — 'but we're going to keep you and if you don't say anything about it, no one will know you're on recurring.' I know for a fact that there are more than a few people right now in that situation, who you think are on contract but are really recurring. It's just not out there."

"The pay scale has dramatically changed. You now have people who will work for an episode at a rate that was unheard of not that long ago."

Audience Appreciation

■ Some performers feel that the push to get younger viewers and hire new faces that the audience doesn't know is part of an outdated model. "If these shows are going to continue on and continue to have a viewership, you've got to please the fans you have," one notes. "I don't know a ton of 16-year-olds who are all of a sudden watching **BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL** or **GENERAL HOSPITAL** or whatever show. The way I look at it, there's a finite time that the shows will have with its audience, so why not give your audience that history, give your audience the people who they've watched over the years, who've developed their characters? They have longevity for a reason. It's great to bring people back, but then you have to use them."

Luring big names from other shows might not always be a surefire success, either. "Something I've noticed in the past few years — and I know this has always gone on to a certain extent — is bringing people on who were huge on other shows, bringing them on with all this fanfare, then only working them one or two days a week and having them basically do nothing," points out this player. "You can't have someone on the talent level of some of these guys, male and female, and have them do nothing! It makes no sense."

And what about past faves who can't break back into the biz? "In the old days, if you really were a star and you left your show, you had a safety net in the back of your head," explains a source. "For the most part, if you were a big enough name, you would be hired somewhere else. Those days are long gone. There's no room. There are so few roles now because you've gotten rid of five other shows. Now, the show has all the power, like, 'You're lucky to be here, there are a lot of big soap stars, just as big as you, who cannot get a job on another soap.'"

Pushing Product

■ Long hiatuses, and with them the need to film more than five shows per week to save money, has had an impact on what you see on-screen. "It doesn't leave a lot of room for much creativity within the scene," points out a popular star. "If someone's hair is in their face for the entire scene or somebody says something that isn't grammatically correct, or something in the background isn't supposed to be in the set, it doesn't matter. Things aren't caught because we're going so quickly. It's a chipping away of the medium and it's too bad because viewers notice that kind of stuff." The hurried schedule takes its toll, says another set-sider. "In the old days, you could rehearse or you could say, 'You know what? I don't feel good about this. Can we do it again?'"

Those days are over; they have to be out by 5 o'clock or whatever." Notes this star, "As an actor, I don't feel like I'm part of the creative process. That's behind the scenes, but it's on set, too. Just getting it done feels more important than getting it done right." Adds another, "It's become more of a machine, going in and doing your thing. But the good actors still get that we're entertaining people."

"No one who is still working is ungrateful."

Write Stuff

■ Interactions between the stars and the show's writers have changed drastically, reveals this performer. "Other actors have told me that back in the day, they would really put their foot down about stuff and go in to the writers and throw fits and the whole nine yards," says the star. "Nobody seems to have that kind of power anymore, or maybe it's that no one thinks it would accomplish anything, but I do think the power of the actor has diminished. We're cranking out so much material, more than ever before, and there isn't time in the day to make demands, even if it's something you feel passionately about, and frankly, even if it's something you know the fans are going to have something to say about."

Another issue may be interference from other parties when it comes to mapping out a show's future. "I don't get the sense that the writers are always writing what they want to write or writing for who they want to write for," shrugs this vet, who has spent time on the back burner. "I don't know if it's network interference or if it's just a matter of dollars and cents. You can take it personally and wonder, 'Did I piss someone off?' But I don't complain and I come in prepared. I'm frustrated about it, obviously, but I feel worse for people who are even more veteran than I am. You watch new people coming in, being groomed as the next big thing, while the proven commodities are just sitting on the shelf."

"The show has all the power, like, 'You're lucky to be here, there are a lot of big soap stars, just as big as you, who cannot get a job on another soap.'"

In The Mood

■ *"There is definitely a different mood," asserts one fave. "One thing I have noticed is that because of the scarcity, because there are only four shows, it creates a bit of desperation. There never was that before."*

"Everyone is so worried that the rug will be pulled out from under them at any moment that it's just not fun anymore," explains this veteran soap hopper. "Sure, it's great that we're still here and believe me, that does

not go unnoticed. No one who is still working is ungrateful. The newcomers don't know any better, but for those of us who've done our time, it's not pretty. What the actors are expected to deliver for a lot less money in such a rush is a far cry from the glory days of daytime, back when we had time to rehearse and discuss the scenes ahead of time. But again, that said, we're just happy to still be here. And thank goodness for the fans who've stuck with us through thick and thin!"

so tweet

@lachlanbuchanan (Kyle, Y&R)

I caught her!! More of today's adventure with @HunterHaleyKing at @ContainerStore hehe #YR #toystore #nevergrowup



TWITTERBUCHANAN

@RebeccaBudig (Hayden, GH)

That moment when you realize you are talking to yourself at the grocery...going over the list in my head..yep. #iammygrandmother

@KellySullivanNY (Sage, Y&R)

You know when you come home after a long day, pour yourself some wine, knock the glass over, your dog steps in it, and jumps on your bed?

@teenystweeting (Maxie, GH)

@BrandonBarash and I reorganized Harper's playroom (I was sweating, people). Then we sat on the couch and listened to her tear it apart.

@linseygodfrey (Caroline, B&B)

When you think there's a spider in the shower with you.. Then you realize it's just a false lash from work.. Oh Caroline you saucy minx..

@HayleyErin (Kiki, GH)

I think we can all agree that calories do not exist in airports

@Farah_Galfond (ex-Mimi, DAYS)

You know its a productive day when you de-scale your coffee maker

@michaelmuhney (ex-Adam, Y&R)

Going 2 the grocery store on Super Bowl Sunday is crazy. It's like The Running of the Bulls, if the bulls had cell phones & plastic surgery

check it out!

@kellythiebaud (ex-Britt, GH)

I highly recommend watching #PeoplevsOJ. watched it last night and I can't wait for ep 2!! Don't miss out!

@duelly87 (Michael, GH)

Been on a Friends binge on Netflix Ross makes this show

@EricWinter1 (ex-Rex, DAYS)

I've tried so many healthy food deliveries in LA, but I have to say @TwoPeasIncLA is by far my favorite! Thank you!



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COMMENT CALL

Soap Vet Jensen Buchanan

“I’m really having a fantastic time,” raves Jensen Buchanan of her new role as Y&R’s no-nonsense judge Elise Moxley. “It’s really a great group of folks there, from the behind-the-scenes people to the cast. There are a lot of people from different soaps who I’ve worked with and have sort of funneled to YOUNG AND RESTLESS, so I was just really comfortable from the minute I walked on the set.”

After years of playing soapy heroines, Buchanan enjoys bringing the flinty Elise to life. “It’s been fun for me to play a little bit of a tougher character,” she says. “I had some scenes the other day and suffice it to say, a little fur flew!”

Wisconsin is a familiar setting for Buchanan, who was born in Montgomery, AL — “We only lived there for a little over a year; I didn’t even have time to develop an accent” — and then moved to the northern state. “I grew up in a small town that’s a little bit south of Green Bay, where the base of my family’s paper business was,” she explains. Buchanan was an only child until her parents divorced and her father started a new family with his second wife. Both sides got along nicely — her parents’ houses were located on the same road — and Buchanan experienced a happy childhood, which was when she was introduced to soaps. “My mother was working, so I would walk to my grandmother’s house after school,” Buchanan recalls. “She’d make me toast with peanut butter and we would watch AS THE WORLD TURNS and DAYS OF OUR LIVES. And then in high school, *everybody* was into [GH’s] Luke and Laura.”

During that time, Buchanan found her “true calling,” which

Enjoys Holding Court On Y&R

JUST THE FACTS

Birthday: July 18

Hails From: Neenah, WI.
“I’m a Packers fan through and through.”

Name Game: Jensen is her mother’s maiden name.

Male Call: She has two sons with ex-husband Gray O’Brien: Conor, 21, and Angus, 20. “Conor is living and working in Seattle and Angus got into the acting program at NYU,” she boasts. “I’m really proud of them.”

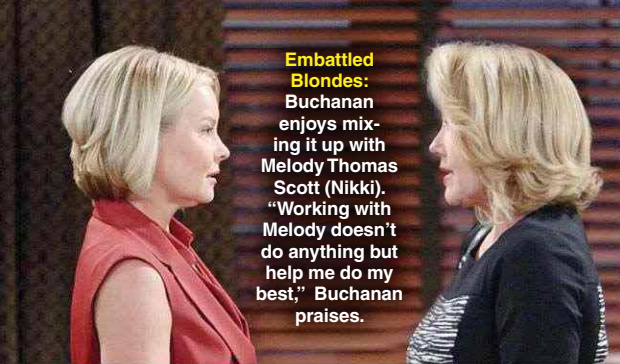
Otherwise Known As:
Melissa, GH, 2001-02;
Vicky, AS THE WORLD
TURNS, 1999, 2000-01;
Vicky/Marley, ANOTHER
WORLD, 1991-99; Sarah,
ONE LIFE TO LIVE, 1987-90

Pet Smart: The actress has two rescue dogs, Roxie and Bailey. “One is aloof and the other one is a cuddler.”

Piquing Her Interests: “I love to cook, go to museums, play tennis, bike on the beach and go hiking.”

She’s A little Bit Country:
“I’m outdoorsy and still a country mouse. I just moved into a house that’s in Los Angeles, but in a more rural area.”

BY DEVIN OWENS



Embattled Blondes: Buchanan enjoys mixing it up with Melody Thomas Scott (Nikki). "Working with Melody doesn't do anything but help me do my best," Buchanan praises.



Hero Worship: "Working with Tom was one of the high points of my career," Buchanan says of **ANOTHER WORLD** counterpart Tom Eplin (ex-Jake).

"When the show ended, I was pretty burned out."

was theater and music, but school came first. "My mom and I looked at many colleges in rural settings," she recalls. "When we got to Boston, I looked at her and said, 'This is where I want to go to school.'" She said, "You're just saying that to scare me [*laughs*]." But I ended up having a great four years [at Boston University]."

After graduation, Buchanan relocated to New York City, where her aim was to perform professionally onstage. "My first job was with this small company called The Light Opera of Manhattan and I was really going on that path. Then I was in an elevator and someone asked me, 'Have you ever thought about doing commercials?' And I said, 'Well no, not really, but okay.'" So, one thing led to another and the next thing I knew, I was put under development with ABC, which means they pay you not to work anywhere while they try to figure out where to put you."

That led to her first soap gig, on **ONE LIFE TO LIVE** as Sarah Gordon. "Honestly, I was terrified; I had no idea what I was doing at all," Buchanan admits. "I remember I used to be completely distracted and startled by the boom [mic] when it would be moving around in our scenes. Anyway, I was so nervous and extremely unprepared, but sometimes you learn by doing. And Robert Woods [ex-Bo] and Erika Slezak [ex-Viki] were great and very kind teachers."

Luckily, then-Executive Producer Paul

Rauch took the newbie under his wing. "He was a tremendous mentor to me," she relays. "I felt sort of like *My Fair Lady*. I came there young and so green, and he really taught me about New York. He would take me to theater openings and art shows, so he was a huge help."

After three years of playing Sarah, Buchanan opted to leave. "I was going to California to be a big movie star," she laughs. "That was eye-opening. I didn't [officially] move there. I just lived with a friend, and then I went to my 10-year high school reunion."

That turned out to be a fateful night, as Buchanan became reacquainted with former schoolmate Gray O'Brien. "I fell in love and ended up marrying him," she recounts. "That brought me to Chicago where he lived, and I got the call from **ANOTHER WORLD**."

In a surprise move, Buchanan took over the roles of popular twins Vicky and Marley. "Thank God, I didn't have any idea of what I was in for," she says. "That first year was really hard. When fans love an actress so much as they did with Anne Heche, a recast is really rough. It's hard on the fans, and I can attest to the fact that it's really hard on the person who takes

DID YOU KNOW?

- Buchanan is a trained opera singer.
- She once dated Lonnie Quinn (ex-Will, **ALL MY CHILDREN**), who is now a weatherman on CBS's New York affiliate.

Boys Club: The actress with her two sons, Conor (l.) and Angus.



it over. I remember crying and saying, 'This isn't working,' but NBC stood by me. Nine years and two Emmy nominations later, it worked, but it was tough at the beginning."

Buchanan enjoyed working with Bay City love interests Mark Pinter (ex-Grant) and Paul Michael Valley (ex-Ryan), but one scene partner in particular stands out. "Tom Eplin [ex-Jake] is one of the most talented people I have ever met," she enthuses. "Working with him was not always easy, but the pay-off was so unbelievable. I've probably learned more from him than anybody else. He is just so unbelievably talented and it was an honor to work with him."

The actress stayed with AW until its cancellation in 1999. "We saw it coming and it was sad," she affirms. "When the show ended, I was pretty burned out, to be perfectly honest. My intention was to take some time off, but I thought that I had kind of completed that part of my life and wasn't really looking to do anything more. I was just a mom and enjoying that quite a bit."

After a short GH stint wrapped in 2002, Buchanan believed her time on soaps was done, but 13 years later, Y&R Executive Producer Jill Farren Phelps offered her the part of Elise. "Sometimes stepping away for a while can give you a renewed sense of enthusiasm and I can't think of a greater place to work," she offers.

Though Buchanan is currently appearing sporadically as Elise, "I really hope that in 2016 we see a little bit more of her," she says. "There is a groundwork in place for some good storylines, but when a cast is big, they really have to honor the people that they have and make sure those people are taken care of with good stories before they start digging a whole new story. But I'm optimistic. We'll see what happens." □

SNOW BUSINESS

■ One of Buchanan's most memorable soap moments was being a part of OLT's splashy location shoot in Salzburg, Austria, which served as the fictional country of Mendorra. "That trip was so fantastic," she smiles. "I took my mother. It was fun, although I was really jet-lagged. I remember being wide awake at 3 in the morning. Nonetheless, it was really a magical trip with Jessica Tuck [ex-Megan, above] and Robert Woods, and we had cast members of *Les Misérables* on our cast at the time and everyone who filled out scenes were all cast members of *Les Misérables*. Paul Rauch went to the show and was so taken with it, he brought some of them over on location with us." In one dramatic sequence, Sarah was forced to marry Prince Raymond, but Bo took his place and they escaped Mendorra troops by skiing down a mountain. Buchanan was disappointed that she wasn't part of the action. "I was so annoyed because I knew how to downhill ski really well, I've done it all my life. I saw my stunt double and I was like, 'This is not acceptable.' Oh, well."

classic

Forget BABY DADDY! *lines* Some Of TV's Funniest Lines Are On Soaps.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

(*Steffy suggests to Wyatt that he get rid of Ivy's belongings.*)

Steffy: "Have a bonfire.

And not just her beauty products. That bedazzled robe in there?"

Wyatt: "And the flowered shower cap?"

Steffy: "Yeah!"

Wyatt: "That's mine."

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

(*Steve really lets Ava know how he feels about her.*)

Steve: "I would rather dig out my good eye with a spoon than be with you again."

DOWNTON ABBEY

(*New bride Mrs. Hughes admits the honeymoon's over.*)

Mrs. Hughes: "I don't seem to cook like his mother."

Mrs. Patmore: "I think the correct response is to say, 'Men,' and sigh."

(*Robert explains the Sphinx to Sybbie.*)

Robert: "The Sphinx is a creature of secrets that she never reveals."

Cora: "Rather like Granny Violet."

(*Violet is upset to discover that her maid talked back to Dr. Clarkson.*)

Violet: "Denker has disgraced herself!"

Isobel: "How distressing for you."

Violet: "It means I shall have to find a new maid."

Isobel: "Yes, I see. A real punishment."

(*Violet dismisses Denker's explanation that Dr. Clarkson was disloyal to*

her Ladyship.)

Violet: "If I withdrew my friendship for everyone who has spoken ill of me, my address book would be empty."

GENERAL HOSPITAL

(*Kiki reacts to the news that Julian and Alexis may wed in a church.*)

Kiki: "For some reason, that surprises me."

Julian: "That's because Alexis is an attorney, and she's not supposed to have a soul."

(*Morgan shares his bipolar diagnosis with Kiki.*)

Morgan: "I'm learning to live with it day by day. I got a regular job. I'm starting to feel like a normal person."

Kiki: "Dare to dream."

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

(*Despite being hospitalized, Billy still gets amorous with Victoria.*)

Billy: "I'm sorry. It must be the meds."

Victoria: "They reduced your painkillers yesterday."

Billy: "Did I say meds? I meant beds. Come on. Get up in here."

(*Victor approaches Jack and Phyllis at Top of the Tower.*)

Jack: "Oh, finally, some service. Maybe you could get us a couple of menus or tell us what the specials are today."

Victor: "How about some dry crackers from the vending machine?"



Being Regular:
GH's Kiki (Hayley Erin) mustered up support for Morgan (Bryan Craig).



AVOCADO RANCH

The DELICIOUS,
FRESH TASTE of
AVOCADO

no slicing required



Dinner For 8

**Thaao Penghlis (Andre)
hosts a festive feast for
his DAYS co-stars**

By Robert Waldron

Thaao Penghlis recently played host to some of his DAYS co-stars at his home for a fabulous dinner party. "In many ways, it was part of giving thanks to be working again, with these people again, after all these years, and the fact that we just picked up right away," the actor explains. "There was no adjustment."

Penghlis was happy to welcome his close-knit cast. "When you're hosting a dinner party, people get to know you better because they see your home base," he explains. "It expands how they see you."

The guest list included Kristian Alfonso (Hope), and her husband, Danny Dagenhurst, Leann Hunley (ex-Anna), Lauren Koslow (Kate) and spouse Nicky Schillace (head of DAYS hair and makeup) and James Reynolds (Abe) and his wife, Lissa Layng Reynolds. "James was my roommate for six months when I started on DAYS OF OUR LIVES, so we have a special bond," Penghlis relays. "He's such a gentleman and his wife, Lissa, is a lovely woman. He and I have always had great conversations. He's a very compassionate person. Kristian is married to a Greek, and the dinner was a way of understanding me better. On top of that, Kristian is a

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN AND NICK SCHILLACE



Friendly Gathering:

Thaao Penghlis put great thought into creating the perfect combination of guests for lively conversation and laughter.

(From l.-r.): Danny Daggenhurst, Kristian Alfonso (Hope), Leann Hunley (ex-Anna), Lissa Layng Reynolds, James Reynolds (Abe), Lauren Koslow (Kate) and the host.



Menu

- Shrimp with panang sauce
- Scallops with capers
- Arugula watercress salad with shaved Parmesan cheese
- Moussaka with béchamel sauce, layered over mashed potatoes with truffles
- Limoncello cake



TWITTER/PENGHLIS



A Real Dish: Before the party began, Penghlis tweeted two different photos of the moussaka he was preparing.

very generous spirit. Lauren is very alluring and her husband, Nicky, is very sophisticated. Everybody loves Leann. She's such a delicious human being. She never says anything bad about anybody. You never get the sense that there's jealousy. To me, she's one of the most complete human beings I've ever met."

Penghlis, using recipes from his latest book, *Seducing Celebrities One Meal at a Time* (available on Amazon), started preparing for the event the day before. "I got up at 5 in the morning and went to the flower

"It was a lovely gathering of great friends to enjoy amazing recipes from Thaa's book. How different everything was, all the different courses that married so beautifully together. It was really a night of being with family. It was elegant, it was fun, it was relaxed, it was comfort. He made these amazing scallops with capers; so tender, so delicious. He also made this delicious moussaka (and, of course, I took some home with me for the next morning). The moussaka was a meal in and of itself. He made a simple elegant salad that was absolutely perfect and full of flavor. I'd like to dine at his house every night. The food was provocative, absolutely delicious and elegant."

—Kristian Alfonso

market in downtown Los Angeles," he recounts. "It was like walking through a humongous garden. There was so much color. I had a cup of coffee walking through and it was a real treat. I saw hydrangeas that were the likes of nothing I had ever seen before, in purples and cobalt blues. It was extraordinary." After surveying the brilliant assortment of posies, Penghlis made his choices. "I wanted the flowers to create part of the atmosphere and went with long-stem orchids that were in colors of green and burgundy, and white lilies." He then made an excursion to Whole Foods Market. "Everything that I cooked was organic," he adds.

When the guests arrived, Penghlis had just finished preparing the béchamel sauce to put on top of the moussaka. "Then I shaved Parmesan to put on top of that, so that it had a lovely tone," he comments. Other dishes prepared for the evening included shrimp with panang sauce, scallops with capers, arugula watercress salad with shaved Parmesan cheese, and for dessert, limoncello cake.

As the guests entered Penghlis's home, their senses were warmly greeted by the

aroma of the dinner, flowers and candles, and music sung by Andrea Bocelli on the sound system. The ambience, shares Penghlis, helped to create “a celebration of life.”

Penghlis says he was in very good humor from the get-go. “Right from the beginning, everybody was standing by the door and I said, ‘Are you looking for an exit already?’” he smiles. “Kristian and Danny brought one bottle of Dom Pérignon and a bottle of [Veuve] Clicquot champagne, so that started the celebration right off. Everybody brought some kind of wine and, at the end of the meal, I served my Greek coffee.”

The actor was delighted by the easy flow of the evening. “Your guests are as important as what you serve,” he remarks. “It was nice to see everybody talking together, or grouped separately, with three conversations going on at the same time. It never lullid. It’s funny. Everybody went into the living room with their plates and just started to chat. I think they enjoyed standing, rather than sitting. Usually you invite your guests to the table and it becomes like a watering hole, with everybody talking.”

Penghlis’s art collection was also a discussion point. “Everybody likes my collection, so there was also that part of the evening,” voices Penghlis. “At one point, Kristian’s husband, Danny, said, ‘That artist you collect, Enrique Senis Oliver. I would love him to paint my sons.’ So we’re looking into that. Enrique Senis Oliver lives

“Key to a good dinner party are the guests. It is an art to put the right people together. The consequence is an evening of stimulating conversation and no small amount of laughter. Thaaos is Greek and I love that we had these great dishes he grew up with and continues to enjoy. The moussaka was lovely. It was perfectly prepared and full of flavor. Thaaos is a perfect host. He was among friends, so the evening was casual, relaxed and great fun.”

—James Reynolds

in Spain. He’s one of Spain’s great painters and I have four of his paintings. They also liked the Cuban art that I’ve collected over the years.”

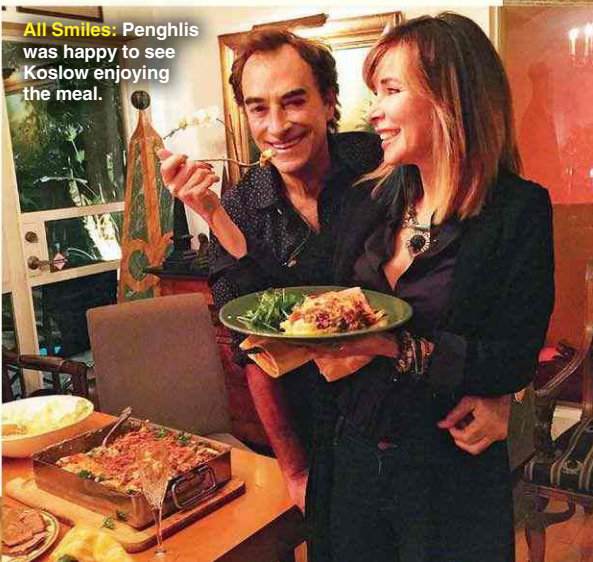
Before his guests said good night, Penghlis offered leftovers and was delighted when Alfonso accepted some moussaka. “The wonderful thing about moussaka is that it can be used over,” Penghlis points out. “I freeze what I don’t use and it becomes a meat sauce.”

The actor says he hopes to entertain again. “I think I’ll do it again soon,” he smiles. □

“It was my favorite kind of get-together because you have friends, fabulous home-cooked food and great conversation. Thaaos went out of his way to cook us a wonderful meal. The moussaka was amazing. It took Thaaos hours to prepare and was hugely appreciated.”

—Lauren Koslow

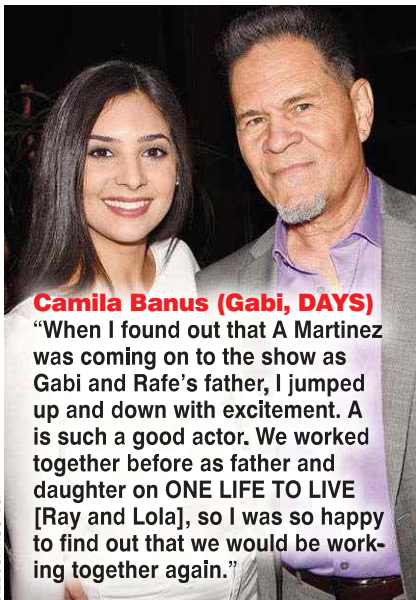
All Smiles: Penghlis was happy to see Koslow enjoying the meal.





roundup

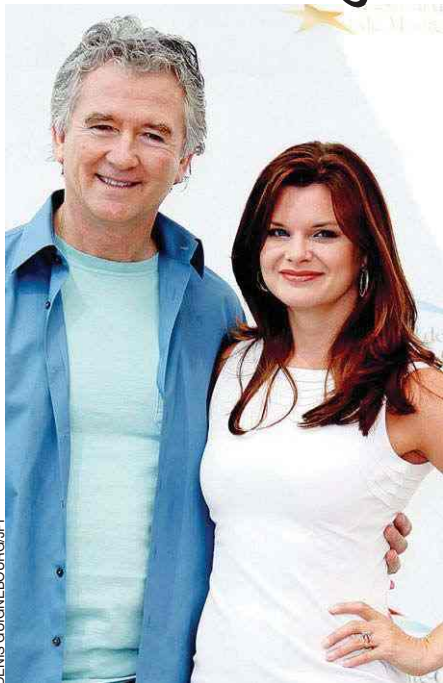
over the years, who
was join



Camila Banus (Gabi, DAYS)

"When I found out that A Martinez was coming on to the show as Gabi and Rafe's father, I jumped up and down with excitement. A is such a good actor. We worked together before as father and daughter on ONE LIFE TO LIVE [Ray and Lola], so I was so happy to find out that we would be working together again."

JILL JOHNSON/JPI



Heather Tom (Katie, B&B)

"That would have to be Patrick Duffy [ex-Stephen]. I was such a huge DALLAS fan [where he played Bobby]. When I was a kid, we were not allowed to watch TV, but on Friday nights, it was the exception. We all got in front of the TV to watch DALLAS and FALCON CREST — that was our one and only night of the week. He is such a beautiful and delightful person. I wish they would bring him back on the canvas. He's a great Logan patriarch."

DENIS GUIGNEBOURG/JPI



Jen Lilley (Theresa, DAYS)

"I was excited when I found out that Kassie DePaiva [r.] would be playing Theresa's sister, Eve. I was familiar with her work and knew that she was very talented, so I looked forward to working with her."

HOWARD WISE/JPI; JILL JOHNSON/JPI

were you thrilled to hearing your show and why?



Elizabeth McGovern (Cora, DOWNTON ABBEY)

"Working with Shirley MacLaine [ex-Martha, near I.] was a real treat. Finding out that she was a fan of the show was truly heartwarming, and what caught me off-guard was how much I learned about my character from hers. She played the 'bawdy American', and seeing that characterization made me feel as though Cora had come a long way in her ability to adapt to the English way of life. I felt proud of Cora for having started with a mother like Shirley MacLaine and being able to acclimate her behavior and her way of maneuvering to her new life in England as well as she did. What a lovely and unexpected surprise that was!"

ROB KIM/GETTY IMAGES; JOSHUA BLANCHARD/GETTY IMAGES



John McCook (Eric, B&B)

"It was quite recently when they said Thorsten [Kaye, I.] was coming in to play Ridge. I thought that was great news. I also loved the idea of Jacob Young [Rick] coming back to play the same character again after years of being away. I thought that was very cool."

SEAN SMITH/JPI



Daniel Goddard (Cane, Y&R)

"Ray Wise [ex-Ian, r.]! He's one of the reasons I started acting because his performance in TWIN PEAKS [as Leland] was so captivating to me. The funny thing is, I didn't even know that he was coming on the show and I recognized him by the back of his head when I saw him on the set. That's how recognizable and burned into my subconscious he is to me."

PHOTOS: JILL JOHNSON/JPI

crossword

BY DONNA HOKE

ONCE UPON A TIME IN SOAP POLITICS

ACROSS

1. *AW MAYOR*
GRANT OR *OLTL*
GOVERNOR
BROOKS

7. Cigs, to Brits

11. "Peek" follower
(two words)

12. Daughter of 29
Down

13. Put on again
without washing, say

15. Miscavage, on
GH, for one

17. Genoa City
hangout; abbr.

19. Burdened

20. Longoria of
DEVIOUS MAIDS

23. *DAYS's* Penghlis
(Andre)

25. Gets up from
one's bed

27. *SNL* alum/Fey part-
ner in crime

31. Nickelodeon comedy
KENAN & ____

32. A lot of noise

33. Concert place, for
short

34. B&B's Don (Bill)

36. Approved, as a Face-
book status

38. Accident-____ (clumsy)

40. Roxy Music artist and
beyond, Brian ____

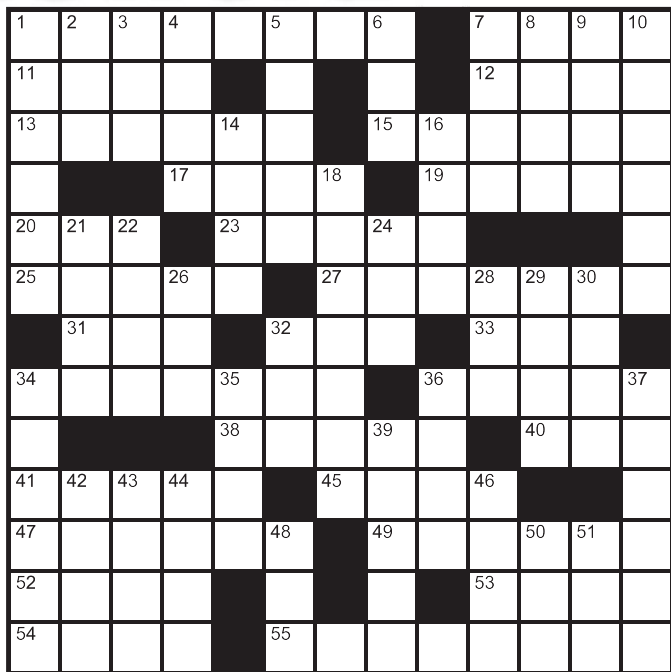
41. *ATWT's* ex-Frannie/
Sabrina, Julianne ____

45. Soap staple

47. GL's Winslow or
AMC's Grey

49. *DAYS's* Ava

52. *GL SENATOR*
MARLER



53. Pigmented eye layer

54. If Noah had a fleet

55. *OLTL GOVERNOR*
HERB

DOWN

1. *DAYS SENATOR DE-*
VERAUX

2. *DAYS MAYOR*
CARVER

3. Brouhaha

4. *The Man Who Fell to*
Earth director Nicolas

5. Soap vet Brown (ex-
Carly, GH et al)

6. Professional hoops
org.; abbr.

7. "Go ____ kite!"
(two words)

8. "____ Lang Syne"

9. Bond

10. *KL SENATOR GREG*

14. *Hamlet* has five

16. ____ gin fizz

18. *SOAP CENTERED*
IN DC

21. *OLTL MAYOR*

22. Octopus home (two
words)

24. "I got an ____ my test!
Woo hoo!" (two words)

26. *A Nightmare on ____*
Street

28. "Bali ____" (Song in
South Pacific)

29. *ONE-TIME GH*
MAYOR

30. Michael's sister
(Y&R)

32. "Hands off" in the ER

34. *DAYS MAYOR EJ*

35. ____ floor plan

sudoku

■ Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. You can't change the digits already provided in the grid; you have to work around them.

5		3						6
			4		8	5	3	
	4			6		7		
		2	7					3
	5	7				6	4	
3					6	1		
		5		4			1	
	7	1	3		5			
4						2		9

- 36. GH's Dunkleman
- 37. *OLTL MAYOR*
- 39. Eileen Davidson's *Death in Daytime*, e.g.
- 42. Smell
- 43. Siberian Russian city
- 44. Father of Amber Tamblyn (ex-Emily, GH)
- 46. Small decorative case, French
- 48. Marlena nickname (DAYS)
- 50. School media depts.
- 51. AMC role for Josh Duhamel

ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

	A	L	A	N	M	I	C	H	A	E	L	
C	O	E		E	N	O			L	G	E	
O	L	E		D	O	N	N	A	L	O	V	E
B								V	I	S	I	T
B	E	T	H	R	A	I	N	E	S			H
	L	A	M	A	S		A			I	N	A
A	L	L	M	Y	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
M	E	L			A		L	O	R	N	A	
I			M	A	R	Y	S	T	U	A	R	T
S	H	E	A	R								R
H	E	N	D	E	R	S	O	N		E	D	U
	R	D	A			H	O	E		V	E	E
	B	O	S	P	R	O	P	O	S	A	L	

Scene & Heard

FAMILIAL TERRITORY

Ashley Jones got a pleasant surprise her first day on the job as GH's Parker: a reunion with **William deVry** (Julian), who played Storm, the uncle of her B&B character, Bridget. "In the middle of my rehearsal with **Nancy Lee Grahn** [Alexis] and **Lexi Ainsworth** [Kristina], Wil walked up, and I totally still think of Wil as my uncle. I just chuckled to myself about how small the soap world is, and it was just fun to see him and speak with him. He had no idea I was going to be on the show because I was told not to tell anyone, and I didn't! He was so shocked and out of context, he didn't recognize me at first. He got closer and closer and finally he was like, 'What are you doing here? On my set, with a pencil and a script?' We got to sit around and catch up for a little bit, which



Ashley loved her "family" reunion with GH's Wil.

EVANS WARD/JPI

was so great." For his part, deVry reports, "I was giving Lexi a little good morning hug and I looked over there and I was just kind of paralyzed for a second. I felt like I was seeing things! I did a double take and I was like, 'Oh, my God, it is Ashley Jones!' It was weird. So surreal!" He stuck around to watch her tape and says, "She did some beautiful work, just impeccable as always. I'm so happy she was available. She's such a professional and a lovely, lovely person."



Jason gives a thumbs up to his Y&R entrance.

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

SLEEPING IT OFF

Y&R's **Jason Thompson** says that he was surprised to find out that his new role as Billy would begin with the character in a coma. "I didn't know what was going to happen exactly until a couple of weeks before that," the actor explains. "But I thought it was very smart in a way. The first day was basically just lying there, with everybody crying over me, but I got a lot of really good information by what everyone was saying about their relationship with Billy, which was great. I tried to just be as relaxed as possible but listen and take it all in. When we did the out-of-body stuff, that was my first chance at working with everybody. I thought it was a very revealing episode of who this guy is, who he loves and what he wants to be. It was an opportunity for me to jump in and make this guy my own, in a way. I thought it worked well."

PROUD PAPA

B&B's **Obba Babatundé** (Julius) couldn't be more pleased about the actresses who play his on-screen daughters. "If I had to have daughters in life, I would have chosen them," he raves of **Karla Mosley** (Maya), **Reign Edwards** (Nicole) and **Felisha Cooper** (Sasha). "Talk about stunning and brilliantly talented ladies. They really have good

heads on their shoulders and are real artists. There's a difference between a person who paints your house and a Picasso. Even though they use the same materials, that's what I find with these ladies. They're not just actors. They are artists. They care about the work and take the painstaking energy that is required to go beneath what is on the surface. They go deep, and we've had that experience together. We sit around and we talk shop. We talk about what this family is about and even if it's never spoken on-screen, it informs the material. I think and hope that the viewing population will enjoy this because the Avants have become a real family."

PHOTOS: SEAN SMITH/JPI



Obba is charmed by his B&B family (from l.) Anna, Felisha, Reign and Karla.



Arienne let loose onstage at the DAYS party.

ROCK ON

When **DAYS** held a big bash last November to celebrate its 50th anniversary at Hollywood's Palladium Theater, **Arienne Zucker** (Nicole) took part in the cast talent show and performed "I Love Rock And Roll". "Yeah, a bucket list moment!" she beams. "I got to sing at the Palladium." Before hitting the stage, Zucker confesses to having jitters. "I'm not a singer," she admits. "I'm an actor who can sort of carry a tune." While rehearsing with the background singers, Zucker recounts, "I kept saying to them, 'You gotta help me out because I'm not a singer. I just want to have fun and want people to have a good time with me.' They told me, 'Girl, as long as you're having fun, everyone is going to have fun.' They were very supportive, so I didn't feel as nervous. It was just, 'Let's go play karaoke, Ari.' Once I got up onstage, there was such a rush, like, 'Oh, my God, I'm a rock star!' "

REPORT CARD: Bold And Beautiful

A critical look at life in Los Angeles

B&B had an explosive 2015 between the Maya/Myron storyline and Aly's unraveling and shocking death. Can 2016 hold up to its previous banner year? So far, so good....



Write On: One of Executive Producer/Head Writer Bradley Bell's strongest suits is his brilliant ability to take stories in unforeseen

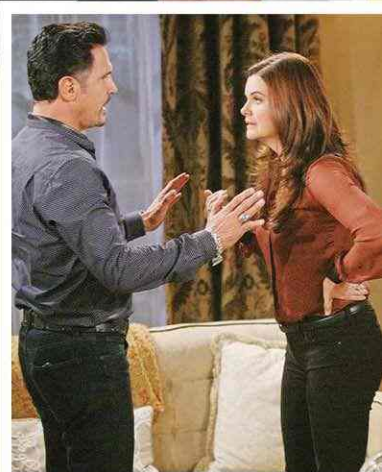
directions and mine surprising twists along the way. Just when it looked like the Liam/Steffy/Wyatt/Ivy quadrangle was going to be a retread of Liam/Steffy/Wyatt/Hope, enter Quinn, Liam's archnemesis, who kidnapped him to her remote cabin. What looked like a *Misery* tale in the making wound up with Wyatt's unbalanced mom falling for her captive. Who saw that coming?

Back In Business: We took B&B to task in our Best and Worst issue last December for letting the powerhouse trio of Katherine Kelly Lang (Brooke), Heather Tom (Katie) and Don Diamont (Bill) gather dust for the better part of 2015. But these faves have come back, guns blazing, in what is turning out to be the show's hottest and most engrossing triangle in years. Katie's discovery of Brooke and Bill's lingering attraction — the latter of which needed to be addressed after being curiously jettisoned — has already given this group some strong Emmy submission material, and it's only March. Original cast member John McCook took a bit of a back seat, as well, as Eric last year, and we can only hope that his increased frequency will continue. He is the heart of B&B and the feel of the show is off-kilter when he's not on.

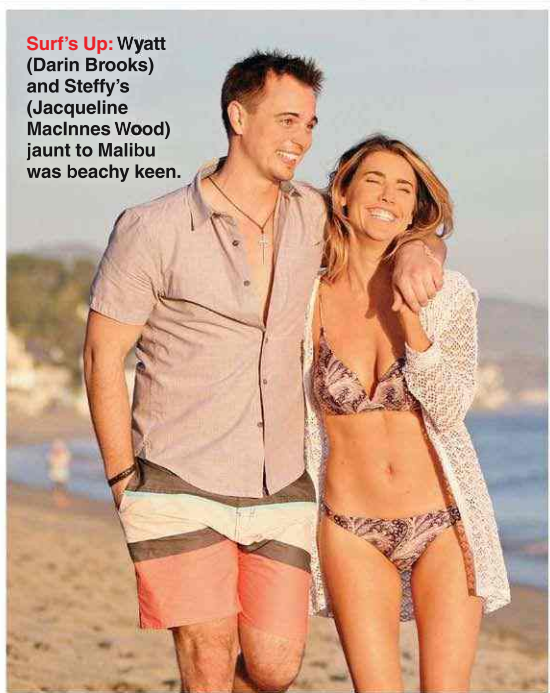


Cabin Fever: Pairing Liam (Scott Clifton) with his rival, Quinn (Rena Sofer), was a twist we didn't see coming.

PHOTOS: SEAN SMITH/UP



Surf's Up: Wyatt (Darin Brooks) and Steffy's (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood) jaunt to Malibu was beachy keen.



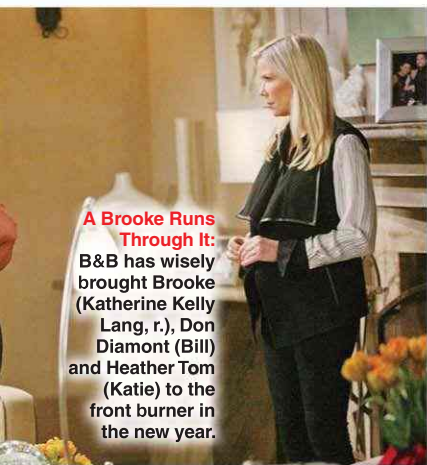
B

Welcome Additions: Last year, we were introduced to Maya's family in the form of Nicole, Julius and Vivienne, whose complicated family dynamics made for some compelling viewing. The recent addition of spicy Sasha — Julius's secret daughter/Nicole's jealous bestie — has added some welcome seasoning. The fact that Sasha is targeting Nic's beau,

Zende, while Nicole is acting as a surrogate for Maya and Rick only ups the dramatic ante.

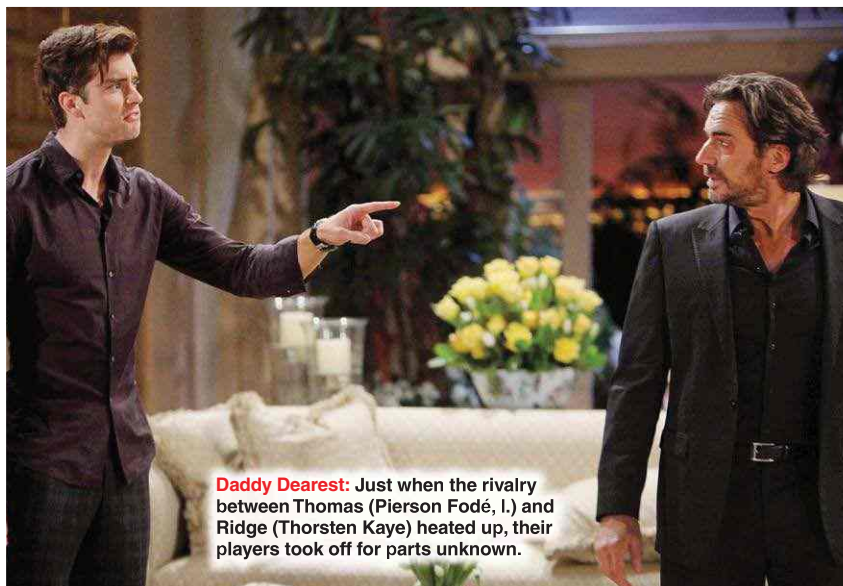
Location, Location, Location: Whether it's in Monaco, Aspen, Italy or Malibu, B&B does an excellent job of moving the action outdoors and making good use of the locale, story-wise. Watching Wyatt and Steffy romp on the beach this winter sure looked good to those shoveling snow in the cold weather states, and the establishing shots of Los Angeles before scenes start sets a glam tone.

A Brooke Runs Through It: B&B has wisely brought Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang, r.), Don Diamont (Bill) and Heather Tom (Katie) to the front burner in the new year.





■ **Missing In Action:** The pattern of B&B storytelling is to focus on two big stories at a time, which means some characters find themselves out of favor for long stretches, which can be jarring. Thorsten Kaye's Ridge was off the canvas for three months, smack in the middle of a "Who's The Daddy?" tale with Thomas and Caroline. No phone calls?



Daddy Dearest: Just when the rivalry between Thomas (Pierson Fodé, l.) and Ridge (Thorsten Kaye) heated up, their players took off for parts unknown.

HOWARD WISE/JPI



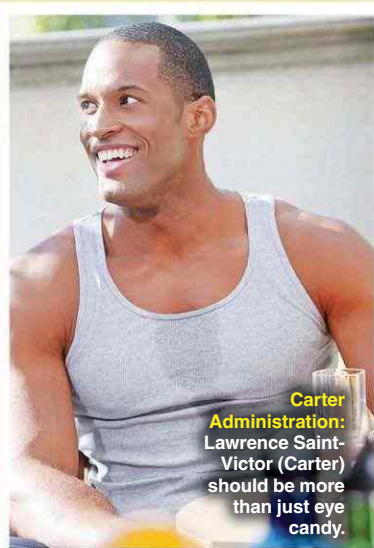
■ **Branching Out:** There are many beloved Forresters who are being blatantly neglected. The death

of Aly at Steffy's hand — albeit accidentally — was the perfect opportunity to revisit Ridge and Thorne's combative kinship, but Thorne was shuttled back to Paris before we could even say *au revoir*. What happened there? Plus, that story played out during the power play for CEO between

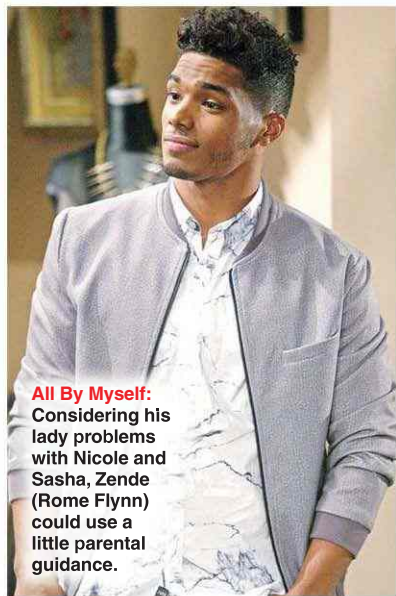
Ridge and Rick. Does Thorne's voice not count for anything? And, why is Zende living in the family mansion yet his parents, Kristen and Tony, haven't visited? Where are Caroline's two moms? Is there any hope of seeing Emmy-winner Lesli Kay (ex-Felicia) back in the fray? These are vital family members and their lack of use is disappointing. B&B has an embarrassment of riches at its fingertips — please, utilize these folks!

No emails? What about Thomas during this drought? He disappeared, too. Ashleigh Brewer's Ivy sojourned to Australia, creating an opportunity for Steffy and Wyatt, but her absence was felt, as well. Deacon and Quinn's sudden MIA status was a head-scratcher, ditto their off-screen breakup. And has anyone put out an APB on Donna?

Get Carter: Lawrence Saint-Victor is one of B&B's most reliable players, portraying stalwart Carter to earnest perfection as he provides counsel during the many crises around him. But it's high time that he be treated as more than a supporting player and get more to do. Or heck, how about getting a love life? We certainly appreciate that he's in shape, but we would love to see Saint-Victor flex his acting muscles, too.



Carter
Administration:
Lawrence Saint-Victor (Carter) should be more than just eye candy.



All By Myself:
Considering his lady problems with Nicole and Sasha, Zende (Rome Flynn) could use a little parental guidance.



■ Short But Sweet:

Thirty minutes isn't enough for

daytime's No. 2 soap. After 29 years, expanding to an hour would be a welcome change and an opportunity to mix in more faces and places.

In Summary

B&B has been on a roll for the past seven years and shows no signs of slowing down.

You Heard It Here

Chances are if you've read a funny, insightful or inspirational quote from a daytime actor, you read it here first.

WORK THROUGH THE PAIN

"We were up on set rehearsing, and we were watching [the events of 9/11] unfold on the monitor upstairs. We had rehearsed these scenes previous to that that were all fun, playful and charming.... We could never get to that place again. It was impossible."

—Vincent Irizarry
(Deimos, DAYS), 8/13/02

THE DARK SIDE

"I'm knitting a sweater for Dylan, Finola's [Hughes, Anna, GH] little baby boy. It's black with a skull and crossbones on it!"

—Rebecca Budig
(Hayden, GH), 4/2/02

DO WHAT YOU LOVE

"Doing bad Shakespeare eight times a week gets more boring than doing this crap every day. In little ways and in long-term ways, you can do more [on a soap] than in any other medium."

—Michael Levin
(ex-Jack, RYAN'S
HOPE), 8/9/88

BLINDED BY LOVE

"How can these people not hire my husband? They're so stupid. He's the most handsome thing on earth."

—Melissa Reeves
(Jennifer, DAYS)
on husband Scott
(Reeves, ex-Steve, GH
et al), 3/31/92

THE ACTING BUG

"One time, I had a spider bite on my eye or some kind of bug bite, and I'm really allergic to antihistamines, but someone gave me a Benadryl ... I started hallucinating."

—Molly Burnett
(ex-Melanie, DAYS)
on what happened on her
worst day of work, 7/16/12



Burton

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

THE ODD COUPLE

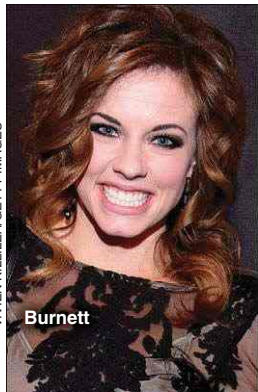
"Last night, I picked up Chinese food off the counter and there he was with 409 and a paper towel. I'm like, 'I can't believe this [laughs]!' And then I go and put my Pepsi One can on the coffee table. Not a second later, a coaster."

—Steve Burton (Dylan, Y&R; ex-Jason, GH) on
his time rooming with
Billy Warlock (ex-A.J.,
GH et al), 2/9/99

BROMANCE

"Ronn Moss [ex-Ridge, B&B]. He's my best friend. People wouldn't believe that we talk four or five times a day on the phone, sometimes even more. I don't even know what we talk about. It's like a marriage, you just have to check in."

—Winsor Harmon
(Thorne, B&B) on which
co-star he calls the
most often, 9/13/05



Burnett

VIVIEN KILL/GETTY IMAGES

Personal Bests



All fans have stories that are particularly close to their hearts, and *Digest* editors are no different.

Here, our staff selects their top five storylines in soap opera history, from the legendary (Karen's double life as a prostitute on *ONE LIFE TO LIVE*, Kim and Shane's *DAYS OF OUR LIVES* romance) to the lesser-known (remember when *GUIDING LIGHT*'s Josh and Harley were a thing?).

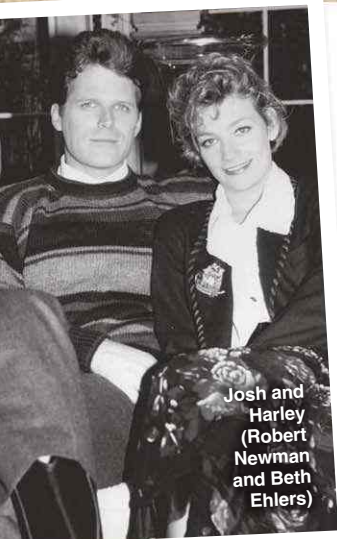


Mara Levinsky

My Top Five

A Fan Since: I was in third grade when I got sucked into *DAYS OF OUR LIVES*, the soap of choice for my best friend Julie's mom, Margie.

The Story That Got Me Hooked: Steve and Kayla's love story — which also got me hooked on *Digest*!



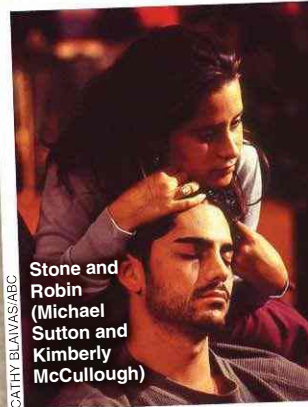
Josh and Harley (Robert Newman and Beth Ehlers)

Josh And Harley's Romance, *GUIDING LIGHT*, 1990-91

I started watching GL to catch Kim Zimmer in action before Reva drove her car off a bridge to her presumed death. I didn't expect to get hooked, but the slow-burn love story of Reva's widower, Josh, and Harley, who was nanny to the pair's two young kids, completely captivated me. Every moment of this tale is etched into my brain; in fact, I once had to gently correct Robert Newman (Josh) when he got his Josh/Harley chronology wrong ("No, Robert, Josh shaved his beard off *after* they had sex"). The story was so subtle, and both characters were so in denial about their burgeoning feelings for each other as Harley challenged Josh to deal with his grief in order to be present for his children, that I didn't think the show was *actually* going to pair them. I was proven gloriously wrong on November 16, 1990, when they shared their first kiss. Alas, the characters broke up when Newman left the show in 1991. I think I took it harder than Harley did!

Who Shot Jake? *ANOTHER WORLD*, 1990-91

Anne Heche, who played twins Vicky and Marley, was the first star I ever shipped, solidifying me as a daily AW viewer circa 1989. I was primarily a Vicky fan, but in this story, Marley — who Jake raped on the night someone plugged him with a bullet in his loft — shined just as brightly. Many women had motive to shoot Jake (his future wife, Paulina, would ultimately be revealed as the culprit), and I loved the fantasy sequence of Jake playing poker with the suspects. But the scene most indelible to me was the conversation between a loaded-for-bear Vicky and a traumatized Marley after the rape. Heche was nothing short of brilliant; that she could achieve such intensity, such intimacy, while acting opposite herself was mind-blowing to me. Still is, actually!



Stone and Robin (Michael Sutton and Kimberly McCullough)

CATHY BLAVAS/ABC

Blair And Todd Fall In Love, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, 1994-95

When Roger Howarth reprised Todd in 2011, I headed to YouTube to educate myself on the early days of Todd and Blair, whose unorthodox courtship was *so* well-crafted. One lonely Christmas, the pals/fellow Llanview outcasts impulsively slept together. (“No love,” was Blair’s only condition; “No problem,” was his gruff response.) Though Todd was no virgin — he was a convicted rapist, lest we forget — he’d never truly been intimate with a woman, and the psychological complexity of this first encounter blew me away. When Blair figured out that an oblivious Todd was about to come into a \$28 million trust fund, she got him to marry her by claiming to be pregnant. She conceived post-nups (which she discovered when her newly loaded hubby forced her to take a pregnancy test, one she expected to fail!), and their relationship deepened as they anticipated becoming parents, then mourned together when she miscarried. The transformation in Todd as he essentially learned how to love was fascinating — but of course, once they *were* in love, Todd discovered how she’d tricked him and dumped her hard. They did reconcile ... just in time for him to be presumed dead when Howarth quit the show. The saga was at once super-soapy and totally fresh, making a late-blooming, but diehard, T&B-er out of me.



Blair and Todd (Kassie DePaiva and Roger Howarth)

Stone Dies From AIDS, GENERAL HOSPITAL, 1995

Back in 1995, while DAYS was going the full escapism route with Marlena’s possession, GH veered all the way in the opposite direction with a heavy, heart-breaking AIDS story — a masterpiece by then-Head Writer Claire Labine that made me proud to be a fan. Soaps hadn’t dealt with AIDS in a truly substantive way until the shocking diagnosis of Robin’s first love, Stone, who ultimately succumbed to the illness in a scene I still can’t watch without weeping (as I learned doing research for our recent “50 Unforgettable Soap Moments” piece). Before Stone died, Robin tested positive for HIV, and made the difficult decision to share the news with her beloved, lest he die with a secret between them. It’s a remarkable coda to this brave and beautiful tale that due to medical advances inconceivable back then, we were able to see Robin thrive in the ensuing decades, becoming a doctor, wife and mother.

Joey Picks Pacey, DAWSON’S CREEK, 1999-2000

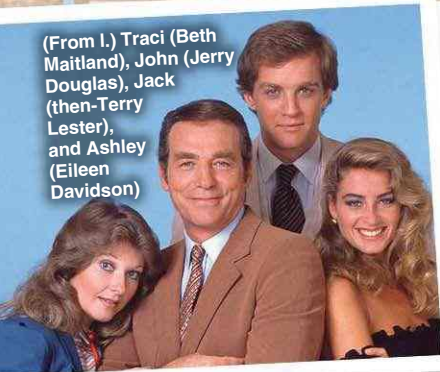
I was a CREEK fan from day one, but had a love/hate relationship with Dawson himself (loved his CREEK, hated him). Though Joey and Pacey were my fave characters, their antagonistic relationship wasn’t given much play. That changed in season 3, when Dawson and Joey’s relationship tanked and he tasked a reluctant Pacey with looking after her. Over the course of the season, Pacey fell hard for his beautiful, brainy sparring partner, who ultimately couldn’t deny that her own feelings for Pacey had become far from platonic. When Dawson found out that they were hooking up, he demanded that Joey pick between her BFF and her beau. On the season finale, Joey definitively chose Pacey, sailing away with him for the summer on his refurbished boat, *The True Love*. That Dawson was crushed by this was, to me, delicious icing on the cake, immortalized by the Internet gif of “Crying Dawson”. I will always remember the thrill of the story as it unfolded week to week: it was like fan fiction come to life.

Devin Owens

My Top Five

A Fan Since: I was in college, still living at home, and my mom introduced me to **AS THE WORLD TURNS**.

The Story That Got Me Hooked: I was instantly glued to the Steve and Betsy romance.



(From l.) Traci (Beth Maitland), John (Jerry Douglas), Jack (then-Terry Lester), and Ashley (Eileen Davidson)

Who Is Brent's Child? **YOUNG AND RESTLESS, 1984-85**

Then-Head Writer William J. Bell was a master of the soapy surprise. My fave was when Brent Davis showed up in Genoa City, throwing Dina Mergeron (John Abbott's first wife and estranged mom of Jack, Ashley and Traci) for a loop. She'd had an affair with Brent, and, we learned, one of the Abbott kids was the product of their tryst! But which one? The riddle was deliciously complicated because Brent was interacting with each candidate. Could the morally dubious Jack be so unlike John because he was someone else's son? Or was Davis blood the reason why bookworm

Traci was so different from her glamorous siblings? I never suspected it was Ashley, who seemed like an Abbott through and through, so I was gobsmacked when Brent spotted her in a restaurant and marveled at his daughter! When he revealed the truth to Ash, she was so stunned, she lost her memory. Don'tcha love/hate it when that happens?

Who Is Kim's Stalker? **AS THE WORLD TURNS, 1985-86**

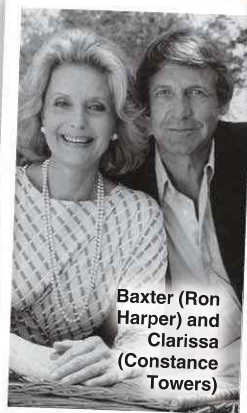
The interest I lost in Oakdale after Meg Ryan left as Betsy came roaring back with this top-notch mystery/thriller from then-Head Writer Douglas Marland. Kim began receiving anonymous gifts and phone calls referencing her days as a nightclub chanteuse, leaving her unnerved. There were crafty red herrings aplenty, with the suspect list including Kim's ex-husband, John, and Bob's first wife, Lisa. Finally, at the end of a Friday episode, the camera panned a never-before-seen room that was decorated as a creepy shrine to Kim. The frame pulled back to reveal the last person I suspected: Douglas Cummings, the seemingly mild-mannered hubby-to-be of Kim's stepdaughter, Frannie. The tale was a masterpiece from start to grisly finish (after taking Kim and Frannie hostage, Doug was fatally stabbed with a letter opener by his ex-lover, Marsha Talbot).



(From l.) Doug (John Wesley Shipp), Frannie (Julianne Moore) and Kim (Kathryn Hays)

Baxter Is Alive, CAPITOL, 1985

I loved CAPITOL's mix of rivalries (Trey vs. Tyler, for one) and young romances (like Wally and Brenda) set against the glitzy backdrop of Washington D.C., but got especially wrapped up in the sweet relationship between widow Clarissa McCandless and Senator Mark Denning. After they got engaged, the dashing Jarrett Morgan arrived, and there was no denying the subtle chemistry he shared with Clarissa. I was *stunned* when Jarrett confided to his doctor, Thomas, that he was actually Clarissa's presumed-dead husband, Baxter, with an overhauled face! As the attraction between "Jarrett" and Clarissa grew, I was salivating for Baxter to confess all to his true love. CAPITOL took an unexpected approach by having Clarissa figure out his identity on her own. I'll never forget how she clued him in: She invited an unsuspecting "Jarrett" to her home, calmly sat at a piano, and began playing their song.



Baxter (Ron Harper) and Clarissa (Constance Towers)

Vanessa Comes Home, GUIDING LIGHT, 1997

I loved Vanessa and Matt's May/December romance and was bummed when Maeve Kinkead's departure led to Vanessa faking her death to spare loved ones the pain of watching her decline from a neurological disease. Many months later, Kinkead returned to the show (hooray!) and Vanessa went into remission, but stayed away from Springfield. In a poetry chat room, she connected with a grieving Matt, but neither knew they were talking to the other (dam Internet handles!). I found the whole thing terribly romantic — and their near-misses once Vanessa slipped back into town totally maddening. Matt finally deduced that Vanessa was alive and was convinced that if he finished their dream house, she would come home. The townsfolk (even Roger!) came together to complete the build, after which everyone waited for Vanessa to arrive. She didn't show and Matt's supporters left, one by one. When he was all alone and out of hope, Vanessa suddenly appeared in the doorway. The reunion was so tender, so joyous and so worth the wait.



Matt (Kurt McKinney) and Vanessa (Maeve Kinkead)

The Aftermath Of Cassie's Death, Y&R, 2005

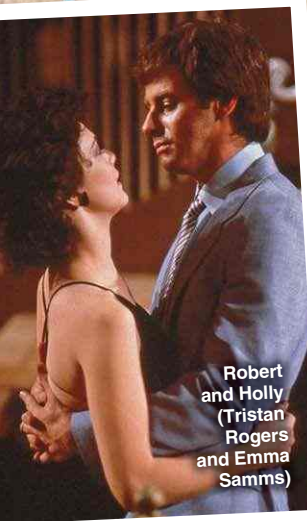
I was covering Y&R for *Digest* when the show scripted the tragic demise of Sharon and Nick's 14-year-old daughter, Cassie, one of the saddest soap arcs I've ever seen. But the fallout was equally compelling, starting with Daniel's gripping trial for causing the teen's death (he didn't). Sharon and Nick drifted further apart in their all-consuming grief, as so often happens in real life when a couple loses a child. Sharon turning to Brad for comfort complicated his relationship with Victoria, but it was Nick's affair with Phyllis that stunned and enraged me. However, their undeniable heat, passion and charisma ultimately turned me into a "Phick" supporter. Y&R took a huge risk by killing off a much-loved character, but made it count in ways that are still resonating to this day.

Stella Bednarz

My Top Five

A Fan Since: I was a kid and watched during school breaks (whenever my mom, Norma, a soap viewer, would let me).

The Story That Got Me Hooked: The Alice/Steve/Rachel triangle on *ANOTHER WORLD*. Rachel told Alice that she was pregnant with Steve's baby — during Steve and Alice's engagement party!



Robert and Holly (Tristan Rogers and Emma Samms)

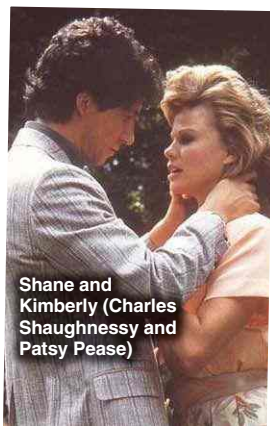
ABC

Robert And Holly Fall In Love, *GENERAL HOSPITAL*, 1983

Theirs was a green-card marriage to halt Holly's deportation (she was pregnant with "dead" Luke's baby). But she overcame grief and a miscarriage by helping private eye Robert solve cases and ... click! His Aussie quips and her British retorts generated sparks on-screen (and eventually off, as portrayers Tristan Rogers and Emma Samms coupled up for a time). Watching this classy couple fall in love was a delight, and their champagne-in-the-sauna scene was my favorite. It seemed so ... spontaneous, and Samms told me that indeed it was. The action was scripted to be erotic — bubbly spilling on Holly's shoulder and Robert licking it off. Instead he shook the bottle, sprayed the champagne in her face and she kept laughing, changing the tone and creating a scene to savor. They kissed, the camera panned to their feet — and two towels dropped.

Shane And Kimberly's Romance, *DAYS OF OUR LIVES*, 1985-87

If you were a *DAYS* viewer in the '80s, chances are you had a favorite couple. I was intrigued with the white knight and his damsel in distress, er, the ISA agent who rescued the Brady daughter being blackmailed back into prostitution. The relationship was a tantalizingly slow build. After lots of longing glances and cups of Earl Grey tea, Shane and Kim professed their love at his ancestral English home. But they were plagued by outside forces. Like Emma, his back-from-the-dead psycho wife. Among other things, she trapped a blind (!) Kim in a burning barn. And villainous Victor. Kim slept with him to save Shane's life, and got pregnant in a wrenching "Who's the daddy?" tale. Shane (as yet unaware he was the bio father) delivered her preemie in a cabin, then proclaimed, "We have a son." Aww. True love prevailed: Shane wed Kim — he secretly arranged the nups — on May 4, 1987.



Shane and Kimberly (Charles Shaughnessy and Patsy Pease)

Who Killed Diana Taylor? GH, 1981

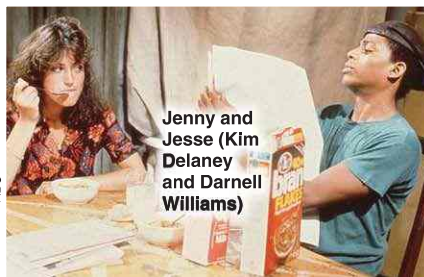
It remains one of the most chilling soap scenes ever: Heather crouching next to Diana's body, dipping the dead woman's finger in her own blood and writing "ANNE" on the kitchen floor to frame the nurse she hated. We didn't see Heather murder Diana, but she was guilty, right? She sneaked out of the loony bin with a gun to off Diana. But the whodunit took a turn that was a total blindside. The killer eventually confessed and it was ... Heather's long-suffering mother, Alice! When she found Heather at the Taylor apartment, about to shoot Diana, Alice knocked the pistol from her hand, but Diana got her own weapon. "It was an accident," Alice sobbed. "I just couldn't get her to let go of that gun. I tried and tried and then the gun went off." Heather tried to lay a guilt trip on Mom for letting her be a suspect, but it didn't work. "My own little girl made me a murderer!" declared Alice, who did no time for the crime.



Diana (Brooke Bundy)

Jenny And Jesse Run Away To N.Y.C., ALL MY CHILDREN, 1982

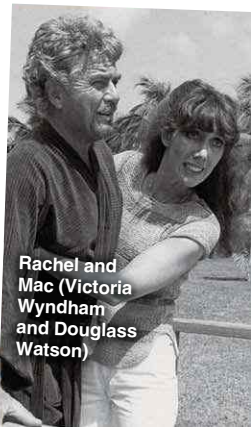
Besties way before the term was coined, teens Jenny and Jesse had led hard-knock lives, but found in each other an unconditional support system. A mortified Jenny fled to New York City after cruel Liza revealed that her "dead" dad, Ray, was actually in prison for raping Ruth. When Jesse confronted Liza, she falsely cried rape, so he took off for the Big Apple, too. The pals struggled to make ends meet, faced danger and bonded with Mrs. Gonzalez, the landlady. This story touched me because of a deceptively simple element: Jenny and Jesse's talks, especially their nighttime chats on the fire escape to beat the summer heat. They were natural and honest and relatable. Jenny: "We're friends for life, right?" Jesse: "Oh, and you know that." Jenny: "And, no matter what, we'll always be there for each other. Deal?" Jesse: "Deal." Sealed with a pinky swear.



Jenny and Jesse (Kim Delaney and Darnell Williams)

Janice Poisons Mac, ANOTHER WORLD, 1980

I was so hooked on this can't-miss-a-day spine-tingler. Janice swooped in to wed Mac after his split from Rachel. Then, at Cory Publishing, she read an unpublished manuscript, *Harry Must Die*, about a wife who slowly poisons her hubby and murders him. So Janice decided she didn't want Mac, just his fortune — and her sexy ex, Mitch. Uh-oh. She implemented the plan and Mac's condition deteriorated. Rachel and Liz figured out what she was up to, but Janice had spirited Mac off to St. Croix. When Rachel got to Mac, he was nearly a goner, and knife-wielding Janice stood in the way. What followed was an epic showdown: The women grappled for the blade and tumbled into the pool, still tussling. They came up for air and stared into each other's eyes for what seemed like an eternity. Who'd been stabbed? Finally, Janice leaned her face on Rachel's cheek, then her chest, before sliding into the water, dead. (Oh, and Mac lived.)



Rachel and Mac (Victoria Wyndham and Douglass Watson)

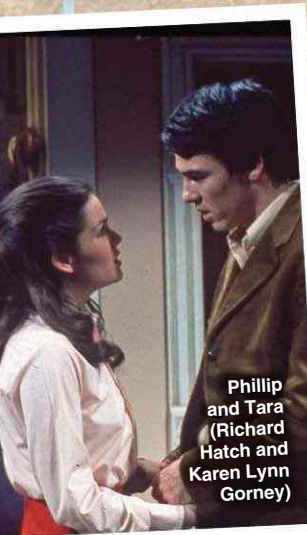
Robert Waldron

My Top Five

A Fan Since: I had a neighborhood friend who sat glued to the screen when her “stories” were on. I thought they were boring but in 1970, she told me about a new soap, **THE BEST OF EVERYTHING**.

The Story That Got Me Hooked:

The minute a drug-dealing biker gang blazed onto the screen, **THE BEST OF EVERYTHING** grabbed my attention. Unfortunately, the soap disappeared after six months — but my love for the medium remained.



Phillip and Tara (Richard Hatch and Karen Lynn Gorney)

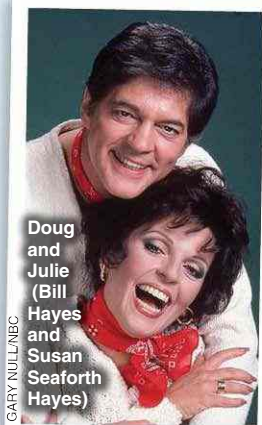
ABC

Phillip and Tara's Tragic Romance, ALL MY CHILDREN, 1972

I was drawn to this soap in 1971 because of the young characters dealing with contemporary issues like the Vietnam War. Tara became involved with Chuck, but her lingering feelings for Phillip intrigued me. The chemistry between portrayers Richard Hatch and Karen Lynn Gorney leaped off the screen. Hatch played sensitivity without appearing weak, while Gorney vividly brought to life Tara's angst over her desire to be with Phillip, but not wanting to hurt Chuck. After Phillip and Tara rekindled their romance, he was drafted, so they decided to elope. When a snowstorm kept them from reaching a justice of the peace, they stopped at a roadside chapel and symbolically married themselves. Soon after, Philip was declared missing in action and Tara discovered that she was pregnant with his baby — but Hatch opted not to renew his contract and my interest in the story was never the same.

Doug and Addie's Elopement Devastates Julie, DAYS OF OUR LIVES, 1972

The powerhouse talents of Susan Seaforth Hayes (Julie), Bill Hayes (Doug) and Patricia Barry (Addie), combined with then-Head Writer William J. Bell's gift for crafting compelling, character-driven stories, kept me riveted to **DAYS**. When Addie returned to Salem as a widow in 1971, Julie harbored resentment over her mom's past abandonment. The story got juicy when Addie fell for Doug, who Julie was bedding behind hubby Scott's back. Julie initiated divorce proceedings so she'd be free to wed Doug, but he got cold feet at the prospect of being a stepdad to her young son, David, and when she threatened to leave him over his reluctance, he turned to Addie for comfort, impulsively agreeing to her suggestion that they elope. When Julie got the news that her lover had become her stepfather, I was mesmerized by the way Seaforth Hayes played Julie's profound sense of loss and gut-wrenching hurt over her mother's betrayal.



Doug and Julie (Bill Hayes and Susan Seaforth Hayes)

GARY NULLE/ABC



Karen
(Judith
Light)

Karen's Double Life, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, 1979

When Karen Wolek first came on the scene in 1976, I wasn't wowed, dismissing her as a selfish pretty girl who'd turned to prostitution because clueless hubby Larry's salary couldn't keep her clad in expensive clothes. But all that changed in 1977, when Judith Light replaced Kathryn Breech. Light delved deeper into the character, helping me to realize the depths of Karen's self-hatred as she struggled to overcome her dark side, desperate to become a woman worthy of Larry's love. As Karen's double life escalated, the story's fascinating twists and turns led to Viki standing trial for the murder of Karen's pimp, Marco. Prosecutor Herb Callison hammered away at Karen while she was on the witness stand, forcing her go to public

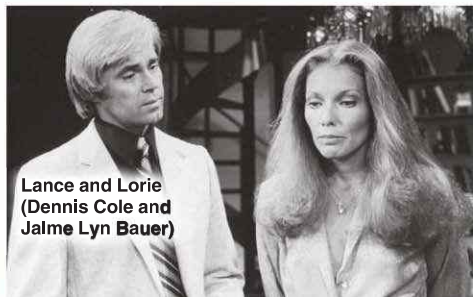
with all of her shameful secrets. Her testimony exonerated Viki — at the cost of her marriage to Larry. It was courtroom drama at its absolute finest.

Vanessa Frames Lorie For Murder, YOUNG AND RESTLESS, 1981-82

Lance Prentiss's possessive mom, Vanessa, disapproved of his interest in Lorie Brooks and spent years trying to keep them apart. Upon learning in 1981 that she only had weeks to live, Vanessa devised a deliciously twisted plan to permanently exorcise Lorie from Lance's life and reunite with him with Lorie's sister, Leslie, who Vanessa preferred. The manipulative mama lured her enemy onto the balcony, then leaped to her death — but of course, it looked like she'd been shoved by Lorie, who was put on trial for the "murder". Just as Vanessa had planned, damaging "evidence" emerged in the form of a letter from Lorie's typewriter stating she would do anything to prevent Vanessa from revealing that the little boy Lorie was raising, Brooks, was Lance and Leslie's love child (a courtroom bombshell in its own right). At the 11th hour, Lorie was spared when little Brooks testified that he'd seen his granny at Lorie's typewriter, and Lance located pills that proved his mom had been terminally ill at the time of her fall.

Lily's Paternity Revealed, AS THE WORLD TURNS, 1987

Not long after Iva revealed to Lucinda that she was the bio mom of Ms. Walsh's adopted daughter, Lily, Rod Landry turned up in Oakdale. He secured a job in Lucinda's stables, where he befriended teen Lily. Rod's quirky behavior piqued my curiosity; he acted like a guy who was guilty about something. Indeed, in time, Rod revealed that he was actually Josh Snyder, who'd raped his adopted cousin Iva when she was 13. When Iva came upon Josh comforting Lily in the stables, she misconstrued what was going on, grabbed a pitchfork, ordered him to keep his hands off of Lily, and blurted out that she was his daughter! Despite her youth, Martha Byrne was a true pro at conveying Lily's confusion and horror as Iva explained that she was Lily's mother. It was a voyeuristic thrill to have a front-row seat to the fallout.



Lance and Lorie
(Dennis Cole and
Jalmie Lyn Bauer)

Tom Stacy

My Top
Five



Jill (Teri Austin, r.)
and Valene
(Joan Van Ark)

LORIMAR

gunpoint, exposed her Ben ruse and forged Val's suicide note. It was an eerie, suspenseful show, with no music, shadowy camera work and tour-de-force performances, which left us with a haunting final shot of a seemingly lifeless Val, arms outstretched as she reached in vain for the unplugged telephone. That was one long summer waiting for KL's return!

A Fan Since: I was in high school when GH's Luke and Laura phenomenon swept the nation — and I was not immune!

The Story That Got Me Hooked: Luke and Laura grabbed me, but I stayed for Blackie and the Riff Raff, the abusive Brock, Lesley's death, and Frisco and Felicia and the Aztec treasure ... until the messy Laurelton murder mystery persuaded me to return to class.

Jill Tries To Kill Val, KNOTS LANDING, 1988

It's not often that a nighttime soap's strongest season is its ninth, but in my opinion, KL's was: The show kicked dramatic ass with Jill's deadly downward spiral. When Jill's relationship with Gary hit the skids due to his constant involvement with first wife Valene and their twins, Jill hit the sauce and stirred the pot. First, she gave Val hope that her presumed-dead hubby, Ben, was still alive. Then, in a rare two-part episode aptly titled "The Perfect Crime", she forced Val to take a bottle of pills at

Nikki's Maid Is Joshua's Ex, YOUNG AND RESTLESS, 1997-98

Shortly after I started at *Digest*, Y&R hooked me with Nikki choosing her handsome gynecologist, Joshua, over Victor to be her latest husband, blissfully unaware that their new maid, "Sarah", was actually his lunatic, presumed-dead ex-wife, Veronica. Then-Head Writer William J. Bell took his sweet time building up to the big reveal with precise pacing (which drove me crazy with anticipation), culminating on the stormy night when "Sarah" outed herself to Joshua. When he rejected her, she shot the couple, killing Josh and leaving Nikki for dead. Nikki woke up and reunited with Victor. When Veronica tried to finish her off in the Newman stables, Victor saved the day and Veronica was impaled on a pitchfork. Evil was vanquished and love conquered all. Classic Bell soap!



Veronica
(Candice Daly)
and Joshua
(Heath Kizzier)

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI

The Salem Stalker, DAYS OF OUR LIVES, 2003-04

My sweet tooth for soap shockers was sated when DAYS announced it was kicking off a murder mystery and no one was safe — and they meant it! Beginning with the murder of cherished police chief Abe, DAYS gave us a tense, taut and deliciously campy *Ten Little Indians* tale, in which each murder was more stunning than the last. Recovering alcoholic Maggie hit with a liquor bottle? Cassie a human piñata? Tony mauled in a bloody tiger attack at the circus? Horton matriarch Alice done in by doughnuts? Not to mention the biggest shocker of them all — the culprit was Marlena (er, even though it wasn't)! As the body count rose, so, too, did ratings as the crime spree became must-see daytime TV. Sure, the whole “Melaswen” denouement that resurrected the victims was preposterous, but who wasn't happy to see our faves alive and well? It was a roller coaster ride this viewer will never forget.

The Metro Court Hostage Crisis, GENERAL HOSPITAL, 2007

Generally speaking, the budgets and schedules of prime-time shows make them much better equipped to tell action tales. But while I was covering GH for *Digest*, I was blown away by then-Head Writer Robert Guza, Jr.'s gripping tale of grace under pressure. Told 24-style, the action began with an explosion leaving most of Port Charles in jeopardy and worked backward, with each eppy bringing us one-hour closer to the big kaboom. The show launched a salaciously sinister villain in Sebastian Roché, so good that the-powers-that-be rechristened his “Mr. Craig” as Jerry Jacks. The riveting hostage drama had it all: Robin was shot; romance bloomed between Maxie and her captor, Coop; Carly and Sonny reunited; and Liz finally spilled the secret that Jason fathered her baby, Jake. The most tear-jerking beat of all was watching the beloved Alan suffer a fatal heart attack upon his release, as the horrified Quartermaines watched helplessly on TV. Can't-miss-a-second drama at its finest.



Kyle (Brett Claywell, L.) and Fish (Scott Evans)

ADAM LARKEY/ABC

A “Kish” Is But A “Kish”, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, 2009-10

I confess that this same-sex love story took me completely by surprise. By 2009, gay characters had firmly established their presence in daytime's core families, thanks to AMC's Bianca and ATWT's Luke. But OLTL not only told an engrossing love story between former frat brothers Kyle Lewis and Oliver Fish (squish-named “Kish”), it shed new light on the joys and pain of coming out while tackling gay bashing and gay marriage, all with heart and humor. Even Dorian got in on the act by marrying a woman to secure the gay vote in the Llanview mayoral race (!). My tastes apparently run toward the flashy; this more slice-of-life tale was an enthralling exception.

STEVE FENN/ABC



Elizabeth (Rebecca Herbst) and Jason (then-Steve Burton)

picture

this

THE LIFE OF GH'S
ANNA IN PHOTOS

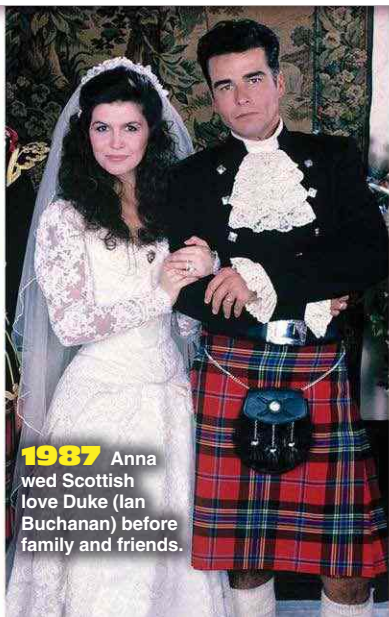


1985 When Anna (Finola Hughes) showed up in Port Charles, viewers learned that Robert (Tristan Rogers) had previously been married to the British beauty, his one-time WSB partner.

1985 Scorpio was shocked to learn that she'd given birth to their daughter, Robin (Kimberly McCullough).

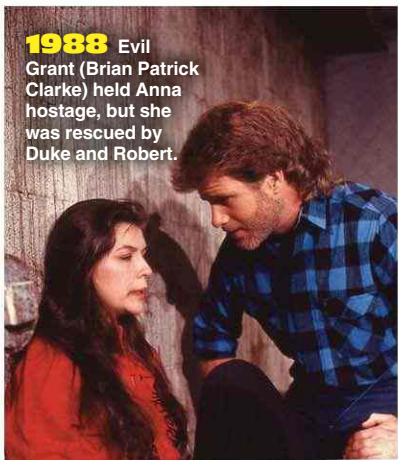


1986 Anna was devastated by the discovery that her co-police chief, Burt Ramsey (c.), was actually the crime lord known as Mr. Big. Also pictured: Jacklyn Zeman as Bobbie and Sam Behrens as Jake.

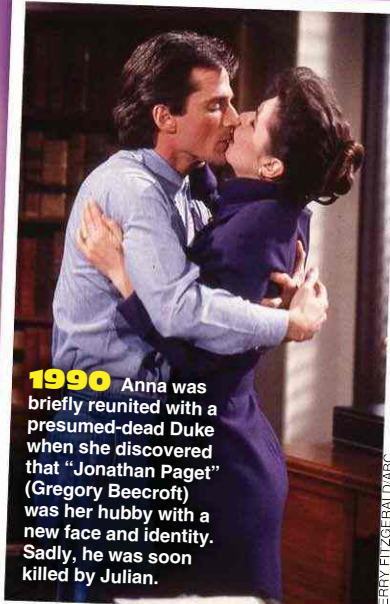


1987 Anna wed Scottish love Duke (Ian Buchanan) before family and friends.

1988 Evil Grant (Brian Patrick Clarke) held Anna hostage, but she was rescued by Duke and Robert.



1990 Anna was briefly reunited with a presumed-dead Duke when she discovered that "Jonathan Paget" (Gregory Beecroft) was her hubby with a new face and identity. Sadly, he was soon killed by Julian.



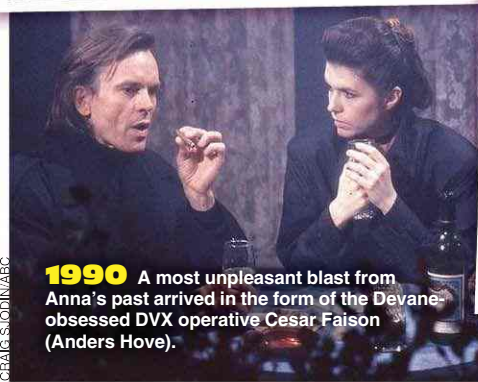
JERRY FITZGERALD/ABC

1990 Anna had a fling with newscaster Shep (Bradley Lockman), a dead ringer for her and Robin's newly departed-from-Earth alien pal, Casey.



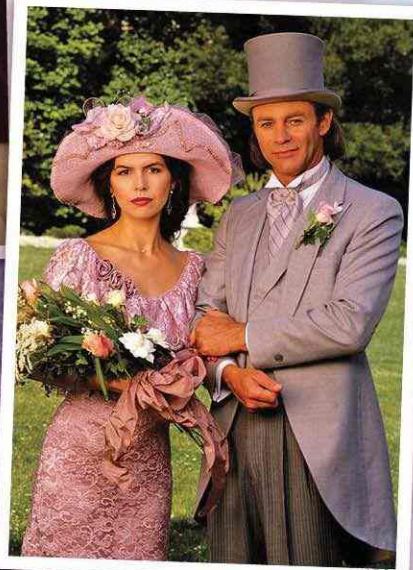
ABC

1990 A most unpleasant blast from Anna's past arrived in the form of the Devane-obsessed DVX operative Cesar Faison (Anders Hove).

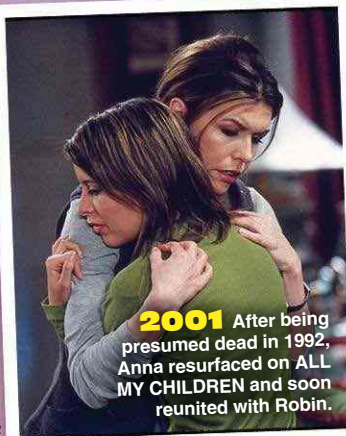


CRAIG S. JORDAN/ABC

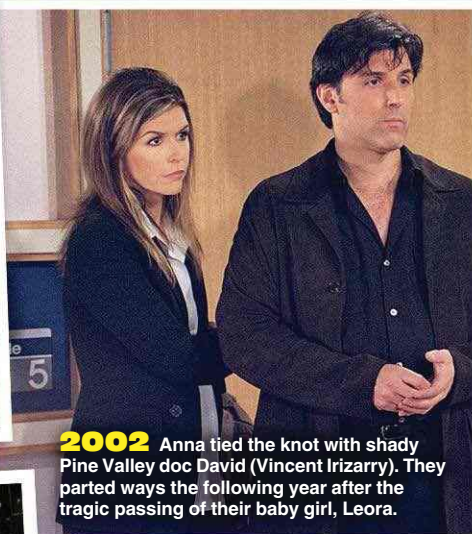
1991 Anna became Mrs. Scorpio for the second time; Lila Quartermaine hosted the nups.



ABC

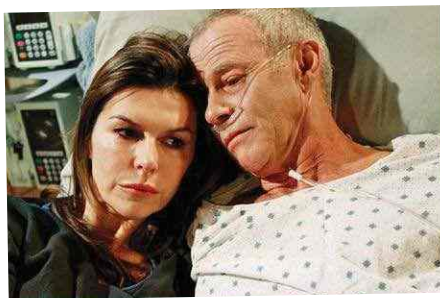


2001 After being presumed dead in 1992, Anna resurfaced on **ALL MY CHILDREN** and soon reunited with Robin.



2002 Anna tied the knot with shady Pine Valley doc David (Vincent Irizarry). They parted ways the following year after the tragic passing of their baby girl, Leora.

2007 Anna enjoyed helping Noah (Rick Springfield) pose as his rock legend look-alike, Eli.

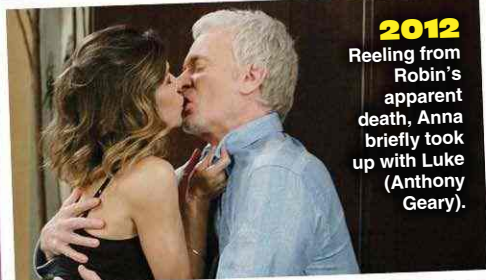


2008 On **GH: NIGHT SHIFT**, Anna supported Robert through his battle with colon cancer.

2008 Anna was overjoyed when Robin gave birth to Emma, her first grandchild.

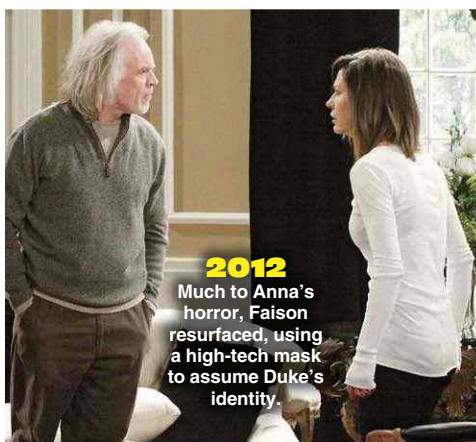


PAUL SKIPPER/JPI



2012
Reeling from Robin's apparent death, Anna briefly took up with Luke (Anthony Geary).

PAUL SKIPPER/JPI



2012
Much to Anna's horror, Faison resurfaced, using a high-tech mask to assume Duke's identity.

RICK POWELL/ABC



2013
Anna reunited with the real Duke ("Jonathan" was also an impostor) in time to tango at the Nurses' Ball.

SEAN SMITH/JPI



2014 Anna and son-in-law Patrick (Jason Thompson) did not have long to savor Robin's return from the dead; Victor soon forced her out of town.



2015
Avenging Duke's death became Anna's top priority after he was gunned down by Carlos on orders from Julian.

BEST of the



April 2006

LISA ROSE/JPI



March 2007

JILL JOHNSON/JPI



June 2010

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

BEST

The hottest ever
red carpet looks
of *Y&R's* Eileen
Davidson (Ashley)

SOAP OPERA DIGEST





December 2014

JB LACROIX/GETTY IMAGES



April 2015

JOHN SCULLI/GETTY IMAGES

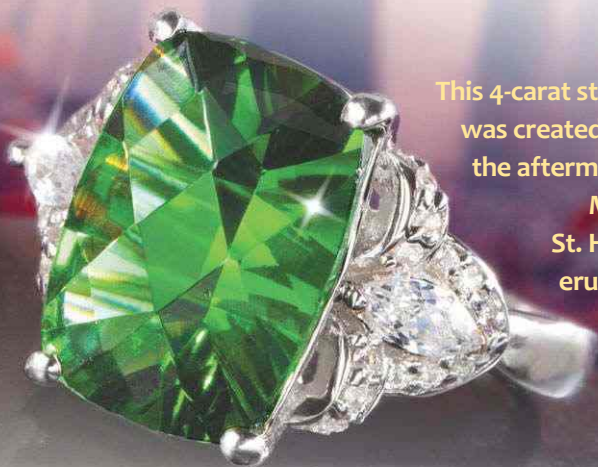


November 2015

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calendar

events

Who: DAYS's Jen Lilley (Theresa) and Eric Martsolf (Brady), as well as numerous other stars

What: Indie Series Awards

Where: El Portal Theatre, North Hollywood, CA

When: Wed., April 6, at 8 p.m.

How: Limited seating is available for fans to purchase discount tickets, which are now on sale. For more information visit <http://indie-seriesawards.com>.

Who: GH's Tyler Christopher (Nikolas), Finola Hughes (Anna), Ryan Paevey (Nathan), Michelle Stafford (Nina) and Laura Wright (Carly)

What: GH Fantasy Weekend-Nashville!

Where: Zanies Comedy Club, 2025 8th Avenue South, Nashville, TN

When: Sat., April 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

How: Tickets range from \$89-\$229. For more info, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gh-fantasy-weekend-nashville-tenn-april-16-2016-tickets-19588959104>.

Soapfest

Returns! Join Melissa Archer (ex-Serena DAYS), Y&R's Sean Carrigan (Stitch, near r.) and Christian J. LeBlanc (Michael) and many more at this year's SoapFest Charity Weekend.



SUE COFLIN/MAX PHOTOS

Who: Melissa Archer (ex-Serena, DAYS), Ryan Paevey (Nathan, GH), Tom Pelphrey (ex-Jonathan, GL), and Y&R's Kate Linder (Esther), Jeff Branson (ex-Ronan), Christian J. LeBlanc (Michael), Sean Carrigan (Stitch) and John Driscoll (ex-Chance)

What: SoapFest Charity Weekend

When: Fri., May 27-Mon., May 30

Where: Marco Island, FL

How: Tickets range from \$75-\$200.

This year's event will benefit several children's charities, including Camp Able, providing educational and outreach services for children with special needs; and the ITC kids programs. Fri.:

Welcome party beginning at 7 p.m. Sat.: Dinner, photo ops and trivia starting at 7 p.m. Sun.: Cruisin' Boozin' & Schmoozin with the Stars boat ride aboard the *Marco Island Princess* from 12-3 p.m., followed by a karaoke bar night. Mon.: Farewell brunch beginning at 12 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://theateronmarco.com/soapfest/>.

birthdays

Anna Maria Horsford
(Vivienne, B&B) 3/6

Maurice Benard
(Sonny, GH) 3/1

Catherine Bach
(Anita, Y&R) 3/1



Horsford

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ARRESTED **DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Andre DiMera

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Morgan Corinthos

CONFESSED **YOUNG AND RESTLESS**

Noah Newman

DIVORCED **GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Brad Cooper and
Rosalie Martinez

HOSPITALIZED **DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Ava Vitali

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Noah Newman

MARRIED **GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Alexis Davis and
Julian Jerome

MOVED OUT **BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL**

Rick and Maya
Forrester

OUT OF TOWN **DAYS OF OUR LIVES**

Brady Black
Theresa Donovan
Nicole Walker



SEAN SMITH/JPI

RELEASED **FROM HOSPITAL** **GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Lulu Falconeri

RESCUED **DAYS OF** **OUR LIVES**

Summer

SHOT **GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Kiki Jerome
Nathan West

THREATENED **YOUNG AND RESTLESS**

Elise Moxley
Luca Santori

FLASHBACK TRIVIA

Who was Alexis's first GH husband?

Turn to page 84 to find out.

bold *and* **beautiful**

MOVING DAY

Rick looks to Eric for support when he and Ridge argue about whose portrait should be over the fireplace, Maya's or Stephanie's. When Eric sides with Ridge, Rick and Maya move out. Ridge and Caroline use Rick's latest tirade to their advantage as they plan to take over the manse. Ridge seals the deal by having all of his children under the same roof once more.

Brooke is surprised when Rick and Maya want to move in. The turn of events leaves Nicole worried about her own future.

DEMANDING TIMES

Zende prepares a quiet evening with Nicole to discuss her surrogacy, but things take an unexpected turn.... Wyatt offers Steffy an opportunity to move past Liam.... Katie insists to Bill that Brooke is trying to break them up and puts him on the spot by demanding to know if he's happy with their union.

THAT MAN O'MINE

Quinn's plan starts to unravel when Wyatt pays an unannounced visit to the cabin. She's forced to admit there's a new man in her life since annulling her marriage. Wyatt shares the news with Steffy; they

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Wyatt considers a career change.
- Sasha makes an aggressive move on a vulnerable Zende.
- Bill and Katie have a serious discussion about the future of their marriage.

speculate about her new suitor. Wyatt questions Steffy about the strange exchange she had when she called Quinn and someone else answered the phone.

Quinn expresses a softer side with Liam when he manages to get her to move on from her difficult past. To get Liam's inquisitive mind off the call he took from Steffy, Quinn shares more information with Liam about "Adam's" background. After, Deacon returns to the cabin to mess with Quinn, but the tables are turned when she offers him an opportunity to make some quick cash. ☐

flashback to 2004

"Don't Care" Giver: Deacon (Sean Kanan, r.) taunted the supposedly catatonic Massimo (Joseph Mascolo) by insinuating himself into Mass's home and bedding his wife, Jackie.

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI

**Executive Producer/
Head Writer:** Bradley
Bell

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days *of our* lives

MAKING WAVES

Brady arrives at the beach, irrationally hoping to see the woman in his dreams. He goes to a beach-front bar and chats with the bartender, who happens to be Rafe's brother, Dario Hernandez. Brady questions Dario about Summer. Dario says he knows her, but warns she is unpredictable and spent time in a psych ward. When Brady heads back to the surf, he spots Summer walking into the ocean, fully dressed.

After hearing that Nicole is going to Los Angeles, Theresa heads there, as well.

Nicole arrives at the beach just as Brady is saving Summer from drowning. They take her back to Brady's hotel room, where Summer insists that she wasn't trying to kill herself. Brady asks Summer about Daniel. Summer reveals they're friends, but haven't seen each other in awhile.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

Kayla is stunned when

BODY COUNT

Rafe learns that the court authorized a search for Stefano's body. He sends Shawn to verify that it's the Phoenix. Rafe informs Hope that they had to let Andre go, but the minute the body is found, they'll issue a warrant.... Ciara covers her rape trauma around Theo. She makes them drinks just as Hope arrives home. Theo tries to take the blame, but Ciara won't let him. Hope can tell her daughter is troubled.... Chase confesses what he did to Andre. Andre promises to protect him. Chase calls Hope and claims he's going to live with his aunt. Andre sets the teen up in a secret room chez DiMera. Shawn and JJ arrive to arrest Andre. Hope is relieved. Chase sneaks out to spy on Ciara.

she receives a video of Ava and Steve having sex. Kayla confronts Steve, who confesses everything, insisting he only slept with Ava to save Kayla's

life. Kayla can't deal and hurries out. She runs right into Ava.

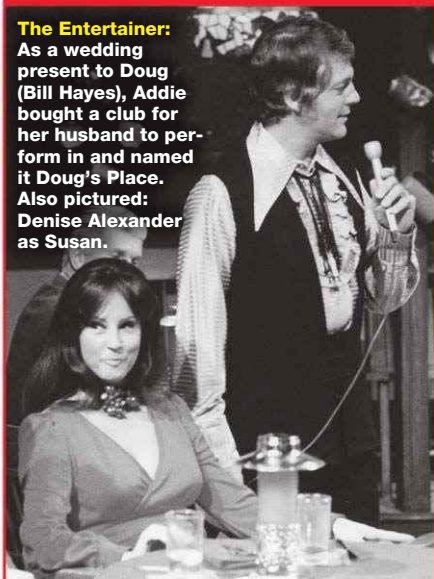
FORMULA ONE

Philip implores Victor to forgive him and reveals that Deimos was blackmailing him. Victor says he might consider it if Philip will spy on Deimos. To that end, Philip tries to curry favor with Deimos by bringing him the formula for the Topits disease serum. He claims he wants to take down Victor.

Marlena comes upon Belle, who has been drinking. Belle opens up about her romantic woes and problems

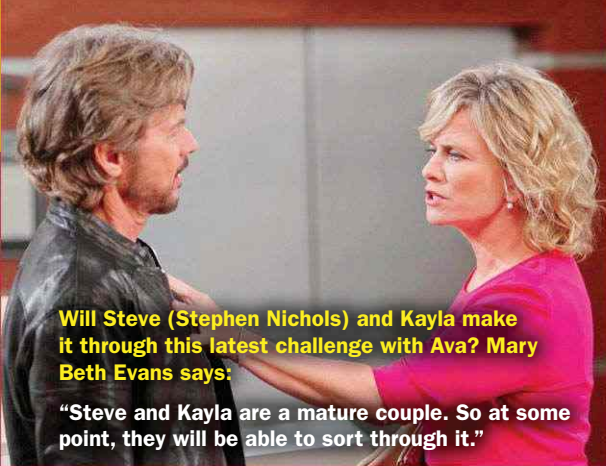
flashback to 1972

The Entertainer: As a wedding present to Doug (Bill Hayes), Addie bought a club for her husband to perform in and named it Doug's Place. Also pictured: Denise Alexander as Susan.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Theresa isn't pleased with Summer's decision.
- Nicole pumps Dario for info.
- Hope rejoins the police force.



Will Steve (Stephen Nichols) and Kayla make it through this latest challenge with Ava? Mary Beth Evans says:

"Steve and Kayla are a mature couple. So at some point, they will be able to sort through it."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

with Claire. After, Belle visits Victor and asks to buy Edge of the Square to give Claire a venue to launch her singing career. Claire is mad at her mother for trying to buy her love. She goes out to a rave with Ciara. Belle, meanwhile, runs into Philip and they wind up making love.

ATTACK MODE

Ava lies to Kayla that Steve wanted to make love to her. Kayla doesn't believe her. Ava goads Kayla into a fight. Roman and JJ show up to find Kayla attacking Ava, who wants to press charges. Roman refuses, saying they'll press charges against *her* for kidnapping Kayla. Ava threatens to release the sex video. Kayla asks Roman to let Ava go. Roman instructs JJ to escort Ms. Vitali out of Salem.

Hope finds Steve

depressed and drinking. He fears he's lost Kayla. Later, Steve comes clean with Joey about sleeping with Ava. Joey is disgusted with his father.

SUMMER IN SALEM

Theresa enters Brady's hotel room and asks what's going on. Summer flees. Brady chases after her, leaving Nicole to explain things to Theresa. Brady catches up to Summer, who reveals that Daniel believed that he and Summer were siblings and that she is also Maggie's bio child. Brady asks her to come to Salem to see if it's true.

PILLOW TALK

Ava gives JJ the slip and heads to the Johnsons. Kayla comes home to find Ava unconscious on the floor with a hypodermic needle sticking out of her arm. Kayla works to save her life. The paramedics arrive and take Ava to the

hospital. There, Kayla confronts Ava, who lies to Roman that Kayla injected her with the needle full of morphine. Roman questions Ava, who stays cool under pressure. After, he warns Steve and Kayla that if a different investigator is appointed to the case, they might buy Ava's tale.

A reeling Joey befriends a girl named Jade and they go to a pop-up party.

The Johnsons head home, where Kayla allows Steve to stay — but on the sofa. Steve tracks down Joey and tells him about Ava's latest stunt. A furious Joey heads to the hospital, where he begins smothering Ava with a pillow. □

Executive Producer:

Ken Corday

Co-Head Writers: Josh Griffith and Dena Higley

general hospital

PRE-WEDDING JITTERS

Molly, Kristina and Sam help Alexis primp for the wedding, while Kiki, Ava and Lucas spend quality time with Julian. Pre-ceremony, Maxie finds a woman's glove in Nathan's tux, and Nina raises the topic of marriage with a reluctant Franco. Kiki listens to a frantic voicemail from Morgan and slips out of the church. Brad shocks Lucas with a copy of his divorce from Rosalie.

STING RAYS

Anna confronts Paul about the arms deal, forcing him to reveal that he is actually an ATF officer

WATER LOG

After Lulu has a nice visit with Dante, Raj takes her hostage on *The Haunted Star*. Later, Dante boards the boat and Lulu is tossed overboard. Dante manages to find her in the water and get her to safety. At the hospital, Dante tells Lulu that he just instinctively knew where to find her and stands guard as she sleeps. Lulu overhears Dante tell Laura how much he loves Lulu. Dante is disappointed when Lulu decides to stay at Wyndemere after her release from the hospital.

working a sting operation undercover. Anna makes Paul promise that after the arms deal arrests are completed, they will go after Julian. On the pier, Morgan watches Dixon and Paul unload the merchandise. During a talk with Anna, Sonny realizes that Paul is running a sting operation. Anna shocks

Sonny with the news that Carlos is alive. Josslyn (who is dubious when Carly insists that Sonny isn't in the mob) discovers that Sonny's gun box is empty. Morgan's parents assume he took it. Kiki informs them that Morgan went to the pier.

WALK THIS WAY

Morgan's cell phone goes off, giving him away. Dixon's men grab him, but Morgan pulls a gun. Morgan fires his gun in the air; Dixon shoots an arriving Kiki. Paul tries to gain control over the bedlam, but Dixon and Ted, one of his men, get away. Sonny — who shocks everyone by walking — gets to the pier with Anna and Carly in tow. As Paul and Anna minister to Kiki, Jordan arrests Morgan. Carly is freaked out by all the weapons she sees.

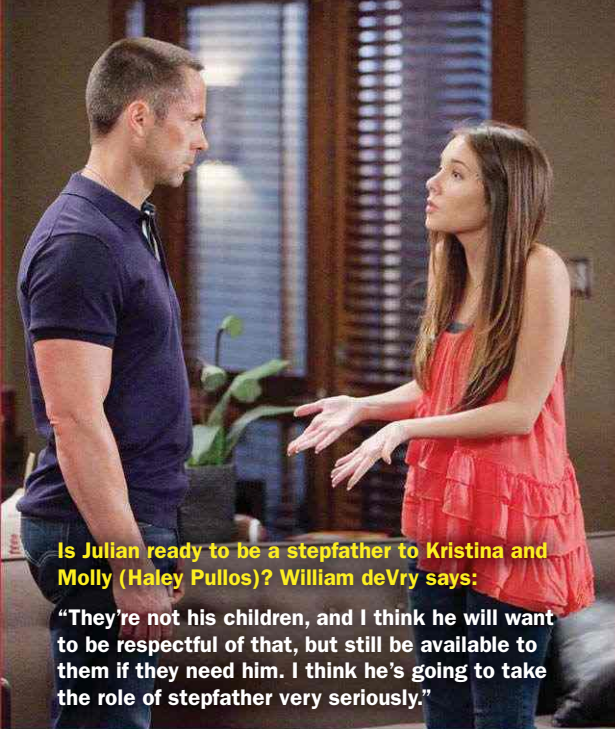
**flashback
to 1999**

Playing Jacks: Alexis's (Nancy Lee Grahn) first stab at matrimony was a complicated marriage of convenience to Jax (Ingo Rademacher).

TONY DAVID/ABC

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Morgan is staggered by Sonny's recommendation.
- Nathan turns to Dante for advice.
- Julian provides support to Ava.



Is Julian ready to be a stepfather to Kristina and Molly (Haley Pullos)? William deVry says:

"They're not his children, and I think he will want to be respectful of that, but still be available to them if they need him. I think he's going to take the role of stepfather very seriously."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

CHURCH AND STATE

After Julian and Alexis are pronounced husband and wife, Dixon and Ted storm the church. Dixon implicates Ava in the arms exchange and shoots Nathan when the cop tries to take down Ted. Dixon informs his hostages that no one is leaving until he gets what he wants. Nikolas and Julian try to negotiate with Dixon, who spies Kristina trying to text for help and grabs her. An entering Sonny is able to get the upper hand and is about to shoot Dixon when Anna races in and implores Sonny to cool down. The police

arrive and take control of the situation. Anna bristles when Paul tries to take some credit for the operation and suggests that he and Anna are a team. Julian and Alexis reel from the turn their nuptials took.

BLOOD LINES

Seeing a blood-soaked Carly, Ava fears that Morgan has been hurt. Carly gently informs Ava of Kiki's shooting, then goes back to the docks and hurls the guns into the drink before collapsing in Sonny's arms. At G.H. for a psych evaluation, Morgan spies a hysterical, guilt-ridden

Ava searching for Kiki. As Sonny and Carly meet with Andre, Morgan tells Michael about what happened on the pier. Ava leans on Franco for support as Griffin takes Kiki into surgery. After a despondent Morgan overhears Griffin admit to Ava that Kiki might not make it, he sneaks up to the hospital roof.

TRAUMA UNIT

On the docks, Hayden shows signs of PTSD after the gunplay at the church. She encounters Curtis and tells him about what went down. Curtis deduces that Nikolas is the man who tried to have her killed and is flummoxed when Hayden claims to be in love with her husband. □

Executive Producer:
Frank Valentini
Head Writers: Shelly Altman and Jean Passanante

young *and* restless

NOAH'S ARC

Paul updates Victor that Noah is back in Genoa City, explaining that he got a warrant for Noah's extradition. Paul adds that Noah sustained injuries while trying to run from the police and is in G.C. Memorial.

At the hospital, Barton tells Nick, Sharon and Dylan that Noah has internal bleeding and is being prepped for surgery. Dylan informs Nick that it was Victor who tipped off the police about Noah.

Paul fills in Billy and Victoria that Noah was the driver who hit Billy. Billy acts surprised, but later admits to Victoria that he did recall seeing Noah in the driver's seat but doesn't want to tell the cops.

BUG OFF

Natalie admits to Luca that the program has some bugs but she's trying to fix them. After Luca leaves, Kevin asks Nat if she's sabotaging her own program.

Luca swings by Victor's office and reveals that Natalie is playing him and Luca has proof. Victor blames Luca for Noah's arrest and pulls a gun on

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Jack tells Neil all about Marco. Nikki overhears Jack detail how Victor found Marco and had him take over Jack's life, including in bed with Phyllis. Jack asks Neil to keep mum about it. The conversation turns to addiction. The duo decides to partner up and open a center where addicts and recovering addicts can help each other.... Nikki realizes that Victor is blackmailing Adam, which is why Adam is working for his father. Nikki assures Adam that she'll help him run things and take control. Adam is shocked to hear that Nikki found out about Marco.... Nikki informs Victor that she knows all about the Jack/Marco switcheroo.... Phyllis is stunned when Jack says Nikki learned the truth. Phyllis warns Nikki that there will be epic repercussions for Victor.

him. Vic asks Luca if he wants to leave town on his own two feet or in a box.

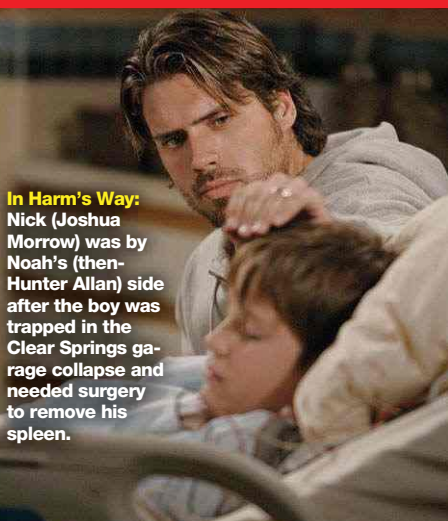
DR. KNOW

At Jabot, Hilary tries to make a case to Devon about

why she is in the perfect position to step in for Ashley, pointing out that she has business experience and is living proof that Dr. Neville's treatment works.

Abby shares her happy news that she is having a baby with Ashley and Dr. Neville.

flashback to 2007

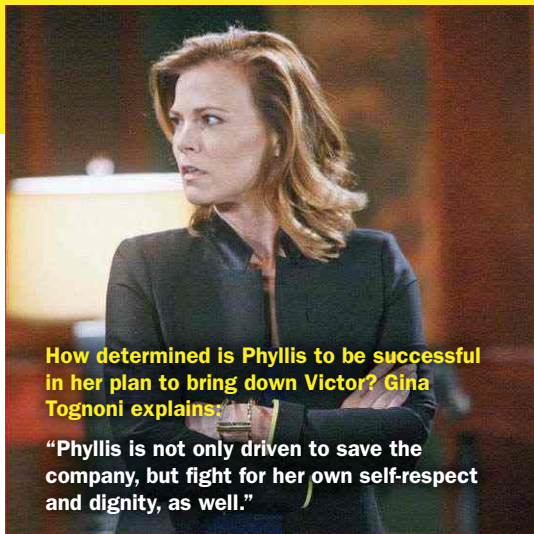


In Harm's Way: Nick (Joshua Morrow) was by Noah's (then-Hunter Allan) side after the boy was trapped in the Clear Springs garage collapse and needed surgery to remove his spleen.

TRUE CONFESSIONS

Victor presents Paul with proof that Marisa was involved in helping Noah cover up the accident. Paul finds it odd that Vic is so hellbent on getting justice for Billy. Victor then talks to Nick and reveals that Adam is the

PHOTOS: SEAN SMITH/JPI



How determined is Phyllis to be successful in her plan to bring down Victor? Gina Tognoni explains:

"Phyllis is not only driven to save the company, but fight for her own self-respect and dignity, as well."

one who put Noah on the plane and that Noah had no intention of returning to Genoa City.

At the coffeehouse, Billy asks Chelsea if she knew that Noah hit him. She confesses that she did know, adding that Luca found out the truth, as well, and used it to blackmail Victor.

Dylan shows Marisa a surveillance video of her at a landfill, disposing of a set of tires. Marisa explains that Noah is innocent and she was the driver. A dubious Dylan goes to Noah's room and gets him to confess.

I SPY

Summer catches Natalie spying on Victor's office. They witness Victor instructing Adam to escort Luca out of town. Summer fears that Victor wants Adam to kill Luca. She

hurries to Luca's suite to warn him. Luca tries to make an escape, but Adam is already there.

BAD JUDGMENT

Nikki tracks down Elise Moxley and says that she wants the judge assigned to Noah's case to keep him out of jail. If not, Nikki declares that she will make Elise and Victor's affair public.

HOMING DEVICE

Summer comes home, worried about Luca. Natalie is able to locate surveillance footage of Adam driving Luca into an alley. Luca then shows up and explains that Adam took him to board a plane but he didn't

get on it. Summer invites Luca to stay with her.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Billy and Phyllis get trapped at Top of the Tower during a storm and share a bottle of wine. Billy urges Phyllis to reveal what Victor did to her. Victoria enters to see Phyl crying in Billy's arms.

Dylan arrives home to find Nick and Sharon cuddled under a blanket in front of the fireplace. Nick quickly exits. Dylan wants Sharon to admit that there is something going on between her and her ex. □

Executive Producers:
Jill Farren Phelps and Charles Pratt, Jr.
Head Writer:
Charles Pratt, Jr.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

5	8	3	1	7	2	4	9	6
7	2	6	4	9	8	5	3	1
1	4	9	5	6	3	7	2	8
6	1	2	7	5	4	9	8	3
8	5	7	9	3	1	6	4	2
3	9	4	2	8	6	1	7	5
2	6	5	8	4	9	3	1	7
9	7	1	3	2	5	8	6	4
4	3	8	6	1	7	2	5	9

ask us

we've got the answers



Sister Act: B&B's Caroline (Linsey Godfrey, l.) is the daughter of the late Caroline's twin sister, Karen (Joanna Johnson).

PHOTOS: SEAN SMITH/JPI

Q How is B&B's Caroline, played by Linsey Godfrey, related to the late Caroline, who people mention from time to time? I know she's Bill's niece, but I'm a little confused about the Spencer family history. Thanks.

Delma D., via email

A When B&B launched in 1987, Caroline Spencer was played by Joanna Johnson and was in love with Ridge. In 1990, they wed, but tragically, she died of leukemia. The following year, the Spencers learned that her identical twin, Karen, who'd been kidnapped as a baby, was alive. She came home to L.A. and stayed until 1994. By 2012, Karen was living in New York and married to a woman, Danielle, and together the couple had raised Karen's baby girl, Caroline, who she named after her late sister. Karen was nervous about coming out to her brother, Bill, since their late father, Bill, Sr., disapproved of her union. Bill, however, didn't mind at all and welcomed Caroline to L.A., promising his sis he'd keep a protective eye on his niece.

Q I know Tony Geary (Luke) retired last year from GH, and I know his final storyline involved him and Laura looking for Lucky. But I missed how exactly Luke Spencer "left" Port Charles. Did he die or did he simply leave town? And what Cas-

sadine was involved in the end and how?

Laura Y.

A Luke did not die; after bringing little Jake home (and rescuing Lucky and Ethan prior to that), he decided to leave town for parts unknown on a journey of self-discovery. His old enemy Frank Smith, not a Cassadine, was the mastermind of Lucky's disappearance, but he did have a final reckoning with Helena on Cassadine Island, where he discovered that she had faked Jake's death and kept the child from his parents.

Q On GUIDING LIGHT, who were Josh and Reva married to other than each other, and how many times were they married to each other? Thank you! Miss the show.

M.R., via email

A Reva and Josh tied the knot a total of three times. Prior to her first union with Josh, Reva said, "I do" to his brother, Billy, and his father, H.B. She was also briefly wed to Alan, but the union was annulled. While presumed dead in Springfield and living in San Cristobel as Catherine, Reva wed Prince Richard, another invalid marriage. Back in the land of the living, Reva swapped vows with Buzz before marrying Josh for the second and third times. Her final on-screen marriage

Shopper's Guide



Soap Opera Digest | Mar 7, 2016

FANTASY & ROMANCE

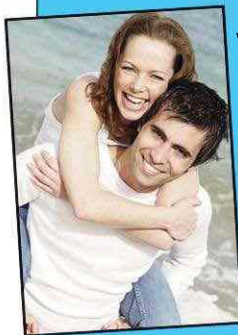
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was to Jeffrey. As for Josh, he only had one pre-Reva spouse, Sonni, but he tied the knot with Annie after Reva's presumed death. When his remarriage to Reva failed, he put a ring on Olivia's finger, then married and divorced Reva again. His final on-screen marriage was to Cassie, Reva's half sister.

Q I know DAYS's Ava was faking that she had leukemia, but aren't there people in Salem who actually had the disease?

Katie, via email

A Yes, there are others. Mike Horton's wife, Margo, was diagnosed with leukemia shortly after they tied the knot in 1978. By 1979, her leukemia was in

remission, but in 1980 it returned and she died later that year. In 2002, Chloe found out that she had leukemia, so Craig and Nancy conceived a baby in order to provide curative bone marrow. In March 2003, Chloe's sister, Joy, was born and her bone marrow saved Chloe's life.

Q On Y&R, I know Jack isn't revealing that Kelly held him captive because he doesn't want to be implicated in her death. But why isn't her brother, Ben, investigating his sister's disappearance? It doesn't make any sense that he isn't questioning why he hasn't heard from Kelly in months!

D.W., via email

twin peeks

I've been seeing the resemblance lately between Kristian Alfonso (Hope, DAYS) and journalist/activist Maria Shriver. Can you show side-by-side pics? Thanks!

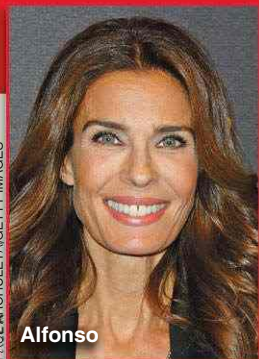
Deborah G., via email

PHOTOS: GABRIEL OLSEN/GETTY IMAGES



Shriver

PHOTOS: PAUL ARCHULETA/GETTY IMAGES



Alfonso

As I was reading the February 8 issue, I saw a picture of Sal Stowers (Lani, DAYS) and I thought she looked a lot like Reign Edwards (Nicole, B&B). Can you run side-by-side photos? Can't wait for my weekly issue of SOD!

Linda S.

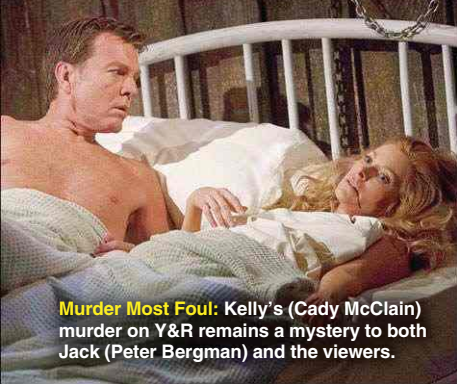
PHOTOS: JILL JOHNSON/JPI



Stowers



Edwards



Murder Most Foul: Kelly's (Cady McClain) murder on Y&R remains a mystery to both Jack (Peter Bergman) and the viewers.

SEAN SMITH/JPI

A The reason why Ben doesn't seem concerned is because he already believes Kelly is dead. When she was arrested for filing a false police report on Phyllis, Kelly skipped the country with Victor's help. Victor then staged her death, informing Jack, who relayed the sad news to Ben that Kelly had committed suicide. Of course, Ms. Andrews didn't kill herself, as she showed up on Jack's honeymoon and took him prisoner, per Victor's orders. Weeks into his captivity, Jack woke up to find Kelly bloodied and dead, but we never learned who is truly responsible.

Got a question or "Twin Peeks" suggestion for the staff of Soap Opera Digest?

Please send all Ask Us requests to **SODask@soapoperadigest.com**. If you have a question for Sing Along, please email **songs@soapoperadigest.com**. Or if you prefer snail mail, send correspondence for either column to:

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SOUND OFF

What's on your mind?

READY FOR LOVE

The first time I took notice that DAYS was hinting at a Gabi and JJ relationship, I fell in love with the idea of them as a couple instantly. They both have been through hard times, so they under-

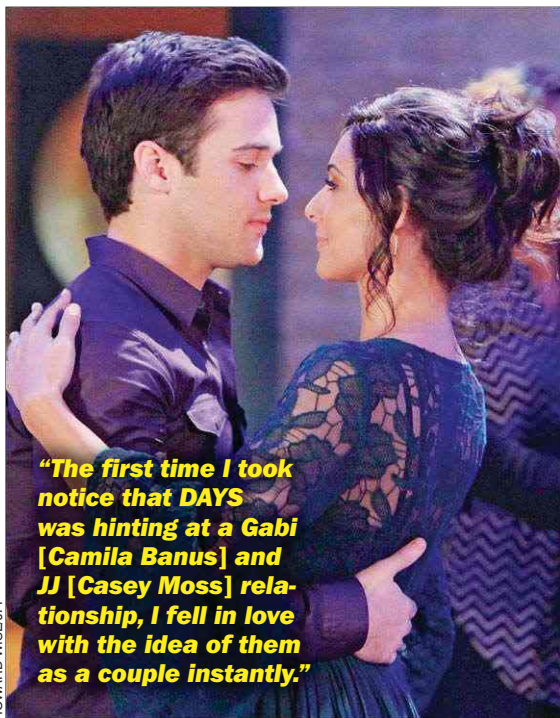
stand what the other is going through. They are refreshing together and I haven't enjoyed a couple on DAYS this much in a very long time. I find myself rewinding their scenes over and over again. I love how the show

is letting them develop naturally and slowly. That doesn't happen very often in soaps, and I love that. I've seen enough of the instant hookups that it's nice to see them taking it slow. They are just so cute and sweet together and they always bring a smile to my face when I see them on-screen. So I hope DAYS continues with their blossoming love story. Right now, they are in the early stages of their relationship, but I am enjoying the ride. I am a huge fan already. They're golden to me. Camila [Banus] and Casey [Moss] are amazing actors. Go "Jabi"!

Ana C., Chicago, IL

THERE IS A SEASON

I was watching DAYS today and it seems that recently they cannot make up their minds which season it is! Salem is supposed to be near Chicago. In February, Chicago is experiencing cold weather and people need to wear jackets outdoors. Today they had some people in



"The first time I took notice that DAYS was hinting at a Gabi [Camila Banus] and JJ [Casey Moss] relationship, I fell in love with the idea of them as a couple instantly."

HOWARD WISE/JPI



SEAN SMITH/JPI

"Please get back to Steffy [Jacqueline MacInnes Wood] and Liam [Scott Clifton] building a life together and making Forrester a powerhouse like it was in the Stephanie and Eric era [on B&B]."

jackets and then another person is outside in a sleeveless dress! This happens at other times, too. I know the show is filmed in L.A., but in "Salem", seasons do occur. Please pay attention to these things. They drive fans crazy!

J.S., Glastonbury, CT

BOLD THINKING

I have watched B&B for 20-plus years and have subscribed to *SOD* for the same amount of time. I would like to see more fashion shows or at least promos for future shows at Forrester Creations. Please get back to Steffy and Liam building a life together and making Forrester a powerhouse like it was in the Stephanie and Eric era. Please, writers, do not change the

characters' history or personality overnight, either. I want to keep watching the show. Steffy and Liam have fought hard to be together and are starting to grow together. Steffy has always loved him, and throwing her to Wyatt is character assassination. This is not being true to Steffy and Liam. I understand couples need distractions sometimes, but not now for them. They have loyal fans!

Annie in Texas

STAND AND DELIVER

After watching the February 9 episode of GH, I am giving a standing ovation to Rebecca Herbst. What a powerful performance. My heart absolutely broke for Liz as she sobbed all alone

from relief that Jake did not hurt Sam. At the end of the episode as Liz stood in front of her blown-to-bits home, watching the literal wreckage of her life, I just wanted to jump through my TV and hug her. Rebecca is just exquisite. She makes you feel every single emotion going through Liz with such ferocity. This whole storyline has been so unfair to Liz and at every turn, I have found myself rooting for her and against everyone else. Rebecca makes you feel so deeply for Liz that I just can't help but pull for her to come out stronger in this ordeal. I want to see her piece her life back together and I want to see her get all the happiness that she so deserves. I want to



"[GH] is going to reunite Jason [Billy Miller] and Sam [Kelly Monaco]. And chances are they'll have another roadblock at some point."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

see her get Jason, the man she loves so deeply, and I want to see her have the happiness she wants with him. She is always the underdog and everyone always gets away with everything on GH except

Liz. I just want Liz to finally beat the odds, give her a beautiful new home, her beautiful kids healthy and happy, and Jason by her side. After everything Liz has been through and lost, I refuse to root for anyone else.

Debbie C., Deer Park, TX

isn't with at the time. She's lied about the paternity of every one of her children, yet people continue to put her on some saint pedestal. It's tiring. The show is going to reunite Jason and Sam. And chances are they'll have another roadblock at some point. It's what soaps do.

Also, to the reader who implied the shows move actors around like they are players being traded from sports team to sports team: Remember, actors move on, storylines change, budgets get cut. The expectation that actors are never going to leave shows is ridiculous. Getting attached happens, but you have to let it go and move on.

Amber C., Jacksonville, FL

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LIFE LESSONS

I'm amazed at the people who think Jason and Liz are the loves of each other's lives on GH. Their relationship was a blip compared to his with Sam and hers with Lucky, the actual loves of their lives. The only reason they appear to have had some epic relationship is because they share a child. In reality, Liz obsesses over whatever man she

MAILBAG



MORE DAYS TO COME

Fans on *Digest*'s Facebook page were thrilled to hear that DAYS got a pickup for another year, and possibly more. Gidget L. enthuses, "Good news to hear as I am a very devoted DAYS OF OUR LIVES fan for life.... I [would] just like to see the storylines be more upbeat, not so sad, as [I] think we all need some real happiness on this show.... The actors and actresses are doing just wonderful.... Here's to DAYS for more years to come!" Sandra M. writes, "I have loved this show for as long as I can remember and I would hope that it keeps going. They must have done a lot of things right to be on for 50 years!" Julia H. remarks, "I've never thought I would need to worry that DAYS could ever end. This show should continue forever and ever." Cathy W. points out, "Too much doom and gloom.

The show has become dark. Where's the fun and humor a soap should have?" Janice A. suggests, "Now let's stop killing people and getting rid of characters that are good, please."

THE DOCTOR IS OUT

The end of Dr. Anderson's run on Y&R also got people buzzing online. Paula A. says, "I would [have] liked to have seen a major confrontation between her, Sharon, Nick

and Sage before she died! Seems we were cheated out of that. Just too easy to end her life without facing consequences. But that was the most exciting storyline that I've seen on the show in a long time!" Joyce V. lauds, "The doctor's death was a sudden and surprising event. It made my jaw drop ... mission accomplished in writing."

YOU SAID IT!

"Did all the 'teens' in Salem go to the same acting school? Scowl and look perplexed and tortured? Lighten up, kids."

—Terry T., via email

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TAKE FIVE

Laura Wright
(Carly, GH)

■ **When you have a full DVR, what show do you watch first?** "Probably *LAW & ORDER: SVU*. After *GENERAL HOSPITAL*, of course!"

■ **Who was your first friend in the soap biz?** "Kelly Ripa [ex-Hayley, *ALL MY CHILDREN*]."

■ **What was your favorite movie when you were a kid?** "No one is going to know what this is except for Doug Davidson [Paul, *Y&R*] because his wife [Cindy Fisher] is the lead in it opposite Matt Dillon. It's called *Liar's Moon*. I own it and still love it! I've totally stalked her at awards shows and stuff [laughs]."

■ **Who were your celeb crushes as a teen?** "Matt Dillon and Ralph Macchio were totally my guys. If they were on the cover of *Teen Beat*, I was buying it!"

■ **What item is always in your fridge?** "Salad — lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes."



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